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Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Abu-Sharif on Baker Plan, U.S. Position

JN3010174089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Oct 89 p 30

[From Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed his belief that the intentions of U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker concerning the finding of a political solution in the Middle East are "good."

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Abu-Sharif added that the principles announced by Bush and Baker on the need to bring about a just settlement of the Palestine question stem from genuine conviction toward this issue; this is the case at least with Bush's announcement on the need to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, he said. The Palesinian side, Abu-Sharif pointed out, wants from the United States nothing more than practical steps to translate what its president said when he met enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the White House a few months ago.

Abu-Sharif expressed the hope that the United States will initiate practical steps to protect the Palestinians from Israel's organized terrorism and convince Israel to set a timetable for its forces' withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories so that the Palestinian people can exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent state. But Abu-Sharif stressed at the same time that the PLO will escalate its struggle against the Israeli occupation and will not stop this struggle except after the departure of the last Israeli soldier from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Abu-Sharif explained that the current situation is very delicate, with the intensive political moves reaching a climax 2 years after the eruption of the intifadah. It was made clear to the entire world that the Palestinians provided everything possible for the peace process, which should aim at finding a comprehensive solution to the Middle East question. The whole world discovered Israel's position, which intransigently rejects and hampers the Palestinian peace initiative and all international efforts exerted by Western Europe or the United Nations.

Asked about PLO's rejection of Baker's plan about 10 days ago, Abu-Sharif said the PLO responded neither positively nor negatively to Baker's five points, which he presented to Egypt and Israel, not to the Palestinian side.

Asked about reports that the United States and the Soviet Union intend to propose a joint plan on the Palestine question in the future, Abu-Sharif denied any knowledge of this. He referred to the important role that Moscow is playing in the region and its endeavor to bring about a peaceful solution to the Palestine question. As far as I know, he said, cooperation between Moscow and Washington has not gone that far. He added: The Soviet Union, for instance, adopts positive and constructive stands toward the U.S. ideas aiming to pave the way for the international conference and a settlement, but at the same time, it firmly supports the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of the independent state. The U.S. side, on the other hand, is still revolving around the expression "full political rights" of the Palestinians as the aim of the Middle East settlement.

DFLP Reaffirms 'Rejection' of Baker's Plan

JN3010134889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] emphasized the importance of Palestinian-Soviet coordination for preparing for the international peace conference, and for foiling attempts to divert attention from the mechanism of the comprehensive solution and harm the intifadah. The DFLP welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand's recent speech at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and his proposal to hold an Arab-European meeting.

The DFLP also reiterated its rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, which ignores the PLO and the PLO's right to form a negotiating Palestinian delegation without interference from any other party, and because this U.S. plan is based on Shamir's plan.

Khalid al-Hasan on Fatah Meeting, Peace Efforts

JN2910211289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Oct 89 pp 1, 21

[By Basimah Nafadi]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee will meet in Tunis today under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu-al-Sa'id, said that during this meeting the Executive Committee will study completing the bylaws, distributing duties to the members, and completing the appointment of three members in accordance with a decision by the Fifth Fatah General Congress to expand the Central Committee to 21. The Executive Committee will also study concluding the appointments of the committees' chairmen and a state council secretary.

Abu-al-Sa'id, member of the Fatah Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign and Parliamentary Committee of the Palestine National Council, asserted that peace efforts in the Middle East will not achieve a solution unless the United States makes efforts and exercises real pressure on Israel.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Abu-al-Sa'id said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's forthcoming visit to Washington will not produce any result unless the United States compels him to make progress in the

peace process. He added that such a pressure will not come from the United States; it maintains strategic interests and close relations with Israel, which carries out dirty operations around the world on behalf of the United States.

He refused to disclose what clarifications the PLO demanded from the United States through Egypt. He said: "The current phase of the Palestine question is very critical, and we should not cross the red lines by touching on sensitive subjects."

Abu-al-Sa'id stated that coordination and agreement between Egypt and the PLO continue and that there are also continuous consultations between the two sides. He noted that there is no problem between Egypt and the PLO. He added: "Some statements here and there being made by some Palestinian leaders do not express the PLO's opinion."

Abu-al-Sa'id also said that although the PLO has not yet asked for an emergency Arab summit conference, it urges the Arab leaders to implement the resolutions they adopted during the Casablanca conference last May to support the intifadah and to start a collective Arab initiative in the international arena. He stressed the need for Arab political action in the international arena, especially after the Bayt Sahur incidents, the desecration of the Ibrahimi Mosque, and the continuous excavations under the al-Aqsa Mosque. Regarding recent Israeli actions and the confusion among the Israeli leaders, he said: "They are aware that this is the last stage. Therefore, they use every means to place obstacles in the path of any move to recognize the Palestinian people's national and political rights." He declared that the Palestinian people will continue their revolution and will realize their aspirations and their right to establish their free independent state.

Abu Lughod on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN2810080889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Oct 89 pp 1, 21

[Interview with Dr Ibrahim Abu Lughod, professor of political science at Northwestern University in the United States and member of the Palestine National Council and PLO Central Council, by Hisham Milhim in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [Milhim] We are approaching the first anniversary of the Algiers Declaration and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Some U.S. officials are saying that the dialogue has not led to any tangible results. First, how do you assess the dialogue so far? Second, do you agree to what is being said by some Palestinians, especially Edward Said, that the time has come for a critical appraisal of the PLO's dialogue and general relationship with the United States?

[Abu Lughod] In my opinion, the United States was compelled to enter into a dialogue with the PLO for important reasons, on both the U.S. and international levels. International pressure was brought to bear on the rigid, hostile U.S. stand following the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algiers and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech, which brought Palestinian demands up to the level of international legitimacy. First, the United States decided to enter into this dialogue with the organizational representative of the Palestinian people without recognizing any principle of self-determination for the Palestinians. Second, the decision came at a suitable time for the United States after recognizing the power behind Palestinian action and the PLO, a power whose secret it could not understand. U.S. ignorance of this power was due to the lack of direct ties, especially security ties, with the PLO because of the the conditions set by Henry Kissinger. As a result of this estrangement, and due also to its ignorance of the power of the Palestinian people and the PLO, the United States has erred against the Palestinians. In 1982, Washington backed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to destroy the PLO. It also asked Arab states to liquidate the PLO. However, all these attempts were in vain. Despite the split within its ranks, its exit from Beirut, the many plots concocted against it by Arab states, and certain Palestinian weaknesses, the PLO remained steadfast and strong, thanks to the Palestinian people who elevated their struggle to an advanced, historic phase; namely, the intifadah in the occupied territories.

The Palestine National Council's Algiers initiative came within the framework of the Palestinian intifadah. It was a serious, positive, and forward-looking initiative seeking a just solution. The United States has not and does not know anything about the power of the intifadah. It believed at first that the intifadah was independent of the PLO and that it emerged suddenly, and so forth. In the end, it realized that the intifadah is part of the PLO and the PLO part of the intifadah, and that both of them are the Palestinian people. The United States realized that the failure of its previous policy to strike at the Palestinian national movement was due to its ignorance of Palestinian affairs.

Therefore, the dialogue serves the international interests of the United States and protects it from world pressure. The United States also wants to know more about the secret of the Palestinian people's strength so as to interfere once again in order to abort the national Palestinian movement.

Therefore, America has confined its contacts with the PLO to the channel of its ambassador in Tunis, the headquarters of the PLO. America receives information from the West Bank and Gaza through its agents, spies, and embassy. It also receives information from Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, and other Arab capitals. Hence, one of the basic objectives of the dialogue is to learn more about the Palestinian situation, which will help them adopt a successful destructive policy.

Through this dialogue—which it will not admit is taking place with the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—the United States wants to create

divisions in the ranks of the Palestinian people. It deals with the PLO leadership, but it also deals with West Bank and Gaza leaders who ask the United States to deal with the PLO. Thus, the United States learns from Palestinian interlocutors what the PLO wants.

I believe that it would be very useful within this context for relations to return to normal between two opponents who must define their policies and decisions in light of a real knowledge of the other party.

I affirm that this objective—to a certain limit—is legitimate for both sides because of the estrangement, particularly after the Lebanon war. The PLO began to lose something of its real estimation of what is taking place in the American arena. This is because the PLO Executive Committee members used to rove in America, attend conferences, hold discussions, have access to and meet with popular American leaderships. The channels of knowledge were open. As the PLO suffered from the estrangement, the organizational organ of the Palestinian people also suffered from this estrangement in one way or another. But, the PLO has supporters in the United States and obtains information. However, the direct access to information is now better. When the U.S. ambassador in Tunis addresses Palestinian interlocutors who realize that he speaks on behalf of the U.S. State Department, and when they hear what he has to say, they will immediately realize that he wants to liquidate the PLO and annul the national rights of the Palestinian people. They will also realize that he wants a writ from the PLO authorizing concessions in the West Bank and Gaza.

I believe it is very useful for the PLO to learn this directly from the U.S. ambassador. I am convinced that many brother Palestinian leaders on various levels are not aware of the degree of the real American hostility to the Palestinian people.

We must understand that the United States has been antagonizing us as a Palestinian people since the [British] mandate for the following reasons: First, a general reason represented in the United States' hostility to all Third World peoples' rights to freedom and independence. Second, America is more hostile to the Palestinian people, especially since their direct enemy is organically linked to America. In addition, the Palestinian people are represented by a national liberation movement with which America cannot deal, as has been indicated through its policies that are inimical to the liberation movements in Algeria, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and others.

The American hostility is felt by the Palestinian people on a daily basis. We are a people suffering from a colonizing settler that wants the land rather than the people, and practices its racist policy with full American support. However, the Israeli colonizer cannot persecute the Palestinian people, uproot them from their land, and kill them without continuing financial, moral, and political support.

How can we assess the dialogue on the basis of this reality? Of course, we want to develop the American stance. Yet, this will not be achieved only through the dialogue in Tunis but as part of an integrated process. For its part, America wants dialogue to lead to the opposite. It wants to bring about the downfall of the PLO and the weakening and submission of the Palestinian people to Israel. Therefore, America speaks about the Shamir plan and Camp David accords during the dialogue sessions. Historically, the U.S. proposals have been seeking the Palestinian people's capitulation either to Israel or both Israel and Jordan. I have not found in the history of the U.S. Middle East policy a period, no matter how short, which makes me say that America sympathized with the rights of the Palestinian people. Indeed, America wants us to accept the capitulation plans.

The Palestinian negotiators have gained important experience 1 year after the dialogue began. I believe they have acqired a genuine assessment of what the American ambassador in Tunis has proposed. Consequently, is there any need to change the dialogue, that is, what we seek from the dialogue?

I believe that the PLO submitted a positive and good political memorandum at the beginning of the dialogue. It is very important for the United States to respond to this memorandum. We want to cooperate with the American people. How can there be a fruitful dialogue while the Palestinians are banned from operating in the American society? Indeed, this is a strange contradiction. I, as a Palestinian negotiator, must demand the cancellation of the U.S. law which bans the PLO's official presence in the United States. We must insist on this demand, because there are issues linked to relations between America and the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO.

These issues are discussed through bilateral interaction between official representatives of the two sides. The United States is harming itself by refusing to deal with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We should raise these issues within the framework of this dialogue; however, we should not confine ourselves to that, because the importance of dialogue is acquired through the echoes of international dialogue. As a Palestinian residing in the United States, I wish to affirm to the American press that the U.S. ambassador in Tunis does not respond to the memorandums we present him with on bilateral Palestinian-U.S. relations. We should affirm to the American people that the Palestinian people represented by the PLO want a just solution to the problem of the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian people. We must clarify to the U.S. citizen that we have presented many of these just solutions to the United States. If the U.S. Government does not clarify the truth of the Palestinian people's demands, then it is my right as a Palestinian to provide the American people with this information.

Quite a long time has gone by for us to discuss the benefits and shortcomings of this dialogue and how to address these shortcomings. I know of no one else but the Zionists and Israel who want to stop the dialogue. We care that the PLO learns from internal dialogue and from the experience it has gained in dealing directly with U.S. officials in its informational, political, and educational course in the world. This is where dialogue acquires its greatest importance, because it shows that we are peace-loving and seek free and democratic elections which are rejected by Shamir's plan. We want this dialogue to hold Israel and its supporter, the United States, responsible for failures of any democratic solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

We should present and explain to the American people all the issues that are discussed in the dialogue sessions, such as the status of PLO offices in the United States, 'Arafat's visit to the United States, Palestinian media in the United States, the visits of Palestinian officials, and other bilateral issues. I believe that the American people will not accept what their government is doing in this dialogue. All the public opinion referendums clearly show that the American people support a just solution to the Palestine question, which includes establishing the independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The American people also support what President 'Arafat has proposed internationally.

[Milhim] Edward Said says that the PLO does not adopt a clear strategy in dealing with the U.S. Government, and that it lacks sufficient knowledge about civilian U.S. society. Do you also think this is true, and what can be done specifically to change this situation?

[Abu Lughod] No matter how much information the PLO has about the United States, I do not believe that it is enough to make daily, accurate decisions. It is foolhardy to say that the PLO's organs have enough resources to gather this information. However, the PLO can deal with an active Palestinian and Arab community and with American friends who can help gather the required information. Therefore, what Dr Edward Said says is of great importance.

What we all demand is that the PLO have information sources. There are real channels that convey information without any bias. We are talking about scientific information based on analytical and objective facts. This is a basic issue because the United States is the second major arena after Palestine, and it is a complicated arena with ample information, equipment, and enemies. The Palestinian and Arab communities and the sympathetic Americans must necessarily find a framework to gather this information and make it available to the Palestinian leadership.

There is another issue I would like to mention in this field. I believe it is one of the issues Dr Edward Said brought up. It is that the individuals dealing daily with the political decisions in the PLO have been cut off from direct and intense contact with the numerous American groupings, including the semi-official groupings. We find that the contacts of the official Palestinian delegation which visits the United Nations every fall have become very limited in the last years. In the past, the members of the delegation used to travel around the United States over various periods. For subjective and American purposes, the activity of this delegation became restricted to the United Nations, and this international organization is not the United States. Previously, we used to bring many U.S. citizens—professors, church representatives, and other institutions—to meet the members of the Palestinian delegation. This does not take place on the same level as it did previously. This means that the PLO's understanding of the American stand has started to become restricted within certain channels.

The option now is either that the PLO depends on what Dr Edward Said called shops—people who have contacts with some leaders in the PLO and inform them of some things and their opinions—or on some friendly Arab states with strong relations with Washington for information. However, these countries have their own opinions, private interests, evaluations, and efforts. These countries might tell the truth, but might also mislead us. In actual fact, the PLO depends on non-basic sources for information.

The basic source is the Americans. Therefore, our duty in one way or another is to cling to these basic sources with whom we cannot fool around so that the PLO can build its political, informational, and media decisions on the real evaluation it receives.

[Milhim] How can that be achieved practically?

[Abu Lughod] The Palestinian Arab community in the United States is capable of finding a certain framework through which it can arm active and qualified individuals who are knowledgeable on U.S. spheres such as Congress, the universities, churches, media, and others, and can deal with them on a day-to-day basis. What is required is to create a good and qualified framework with services at its disposal to carry out this task. We should have a dense presence parallelling that of the enemy, and even greater, because the challenge we are now facing is to create a counter political decision in the United States which is exceeding the strength of the enemy. Since our cause is just and the American people understand our cause to a certain extent, finding the correct framework will help us a great deal.

[Milhim] As you said, the United States did not discuss the Palestinian peace plan, and uses the dialogue to obtain concessions. It did not even discuss Baker's points with the Palestinians, and left the issue for Egyptian mediation so as not to dissatisfy Israel.

[Abu Lughod] The main thing we should always remember is that what the United States wants is the capitulation of the Palestinian people to Israel. Until official U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to an independent Palestinian state and to be represented by the

PLO—their sole, legitimate representative—is declared, we must work on the basis that every U.S. move eventually wants our capitulation. Therefore, the United States wants stability to prevail in Palestine and to exempt Israel from the burden of resisting the intifadah. It also wants to exempt itself from confronting the developments of the intifadah on the Arab level. In sum, the United States wants one thing only; namely, our capitulation. If it does not obtain this capitulation officially, it will try to obtain it practically through dragging us into it. Our task is to force the United States to recognize our rights. This is the essence of the conflict between us and the United States, which continuously supports our direct foe to repress, torture, and uproot us. What we want is a halt to aid to Israel. If this aid is not halted, the United States must be considered a direct foe responsible for the agonies of the Palestinian people.

[Milhim] The intifadah is not as strongly present in the U.S. media as it was last year, although the Israeli repression is escalating. Shall we attribute this to a media failure, or to the failure of the systematized Palestinian-Arab performance in the United States?

[Abu Lugod] I believe the PLO did a splendid job when it publicly pronounced Palestinian demands and policy. However, the problem of the PLO lies in follow-up. Follow-up on the U.S. scene is almost absent. The Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions and President 'Arafat's speech before the United Nations in Geneva and his subsequent press statements, despite their importance, are unavailable. I do not find even one English-language handbook published by any organ in the United States directly or indirectly affiliated with the PLO to express the Palestinian orientation toward peace. This is what I mean by follow-up. There is a Palestinian information office for which funds are provided, but it does not do this either. There are societies which we aid, but neither do they publicize the Palestinian position.

One of the most important negative developments that occurred recently is that the intifadah is no longer seriously dealt with in the U.S. media. If the U.S. media are imposing a blackout on the intidafah it is their responsibility. However, it is my responsibility to take countermeasures to inform the American people and their establishments of the developments of the Palestinian people's struggle and the intifadah. This is our task and the challenge that we are facing. We are convinced that history will not be written by the enemy or by the media that impose a blackout on this history.

Therefore, I believe that the PLO could have realized larger benefits from the positive decisions that were made by the PNC in Algiers as well as from the achievements of the intifadah on Palestinian soil. The PLO can also realize greater benefits from its dialogue with the United States in terms of informing the various sectors of the American people of the facts concerning its demands, aspirations, and aims. And as the United States is an arena of struggle for the Palestinian people, I think that the first demand now is to stop U.S. assistance to Israel, because this assistance enables Israel to control the West Bank and Gaza and to strike at the Palestinian people. These Israeli practices contravene U.S. laws. The Palestinian side has in no way pointed out that Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people contravene the U.S-Israeli agreements. We must launch a comprehensive campaign all over the United States to expose the U.S.-Israeli relations.

We are all responsible for this situation. This is a collective responsibility and not the responsibility of one department of the PLO. We discussed it in the PNC. The Palestinian leadership admits this drawback, but it is working in more than one realm—in the intifadah, Europe, and elsewhere. We also must be realistic. We cannot burden the PLO with more tasks than it can take. We say what we say because we are part of the PLO and we should shoulder our responsibilities. But we cannot shoulder these responsibilities alone. We must admit our shortcomings. What is more important is to know how to deal with these shortcomings. Each of us must ask himself: What is my role, and what is the role of my colleagues in the United States? What is the Palestinian leadership's role? What is the role of the official Palestinian bodies that exist in the United States? There are bodies in the United States that are supported by the PLO and they shoulder responsibilty.

Therefore, we are dealing with a complex problem. But I think that we can rectify matters if we want to, and improve the Palestinian performance in this country.

[Milhim] There is an opinion which claims that even in the case where Palestinian-Arab performance is improved in the United States, at best that will be something positive. However, it will not be enough to influence U.S. policy in the region. What is required is a unified Arab stand capable of putting pressure on the United States.

[Abu Lughod] The U.S. political decision in the Middle East is the result of numerous, varied, and complicated factors. We could say that there is a strong Jewish force in this country with a deep and well-known influence. I believe that the U.S. political decision on the Palestinian people is related to U.S. hegemony in the world and to the historic U.S. policy toward Third World countries. It is also related to Zionist ideology's hegemony on the U.S. society. I do not mean here only the presence of a Jewish pressure force (lobby), but the American generations that grow up supporting the Zionist demand. Therefore, the process of rectifying these concepts is a long, tough, and complicated one.

Finally, I wish to make two points clear. The first is that the U.S. political decision concerning our cause deals in the first degree with the Palestinian people's ability to struggle against Israel and change the balance of power in the region. This is what actually happened when the United States started dealing with the PLO in the seventies, since the Palestinian struggle is what compelled the United States to recognize the Palestinians.

This was not possible in the sixties because Palestinian struggle was limited. Therefore, reality itself imposes certain things on U.S. policy.

The second major point is the Arab-Israeli conflict. We constantly have to stress that the Arab role in essential to the solution of the Palestine question. I do not claim that it is more basic than the Palestinian role since the Palestinian person is the one who has been uprooted and the prime victim; consequently, he is the first struggler. Therefore, we talk about the importance of the Palestinian vision of a solution. However, the Arab role must be basic in formulating the Palestinian solution. We cannot distinguish the Palestinian role from the Arab role. If we separate them, we will fail—both as Palestinians and Arabs—in our struggle against Israel. In my opinion, when Egypt accepted to separate the Palestinian cause from the Egyptian-Israeli cause, that is when it was defeated.

After that, Egypt went to Camp David, which I also believe is a defeat for it. In the same way, if Palestinians go to negotiations alone, they will fail. Therefore, the solution must be a comprehensive one. The comprehensive solution presumes that the struggle is a Palestinian-Arab-Israeli struggle, as well as a Palestinian-Arab struggle against the United States. These are the repurcussions of the Palestinian cause on the Arab level.

What happened and is still happening in Lebanon is not connected with the unjust Lebanese structure, the National Charter, but is basically tied with Israel's ambitions to dominate the region. It is also connected with the Palestinian problem. The situation that Syria is facing now is also connected with the Palestinian problem. The frustrated and frustrating situation in Egypt is connected with the Camp David solution.

It is inevitable that the Arabs will one day make a momentous decision that will tilt the balance of power in the Palestinian people's favor. I believe that the pressure on the United States has so far not been applied even on a minor scale. Therefore, we must overcome the local pressure that prompts pro-Israel political decisions in the United States. The combined forces of the Arab, Palestinian, and friendly bodies in the United States are unequal to the Zionist/Jewish and allied forces. What could tip the scales against the Zionist influence in the United States is the additional weight of the Arab world to assist the Palestinian/Arab and allied forces within the U.S. society.

[Milhim] The Palestinian bodies and organizations in the United States—so-called shops—are numerous, but the prevalent view in Palestinian and Arab circles is that these bodies and organizations are ineffective. Obviously you agree with this, but can you be more definite in proposing alternatives?

[Abu Lughod] I agree that the performance of these organizations is generally weak, but it is also naive to suppose that their influence will be noticeable. These organizations are small with limited aims. The practical application of the principles of these shops differ from one shop to another. For example, organizing U.S. delegations and sending them to meet Palestinian leaders or visit the occupied territory is an important task. However, the effects of such visits will not be felt soon and we must be fair in evaluating the activities of these offices. The influence of these offices is very limited, especially in the short run. Undoubtedly, these offices do not give a scientific Palestinian evaluation of the Palestinian requirements and priorities in the United States. These offices are the result of initaiatives of certain individuals or groups who had convinced certain Palestinian leaders of the need to sponsor them. This is one mode of action. However, what I mentioned a short while ago is tantamount to an invitation to adopting an organized method to evaluate our needs in this country, what we can achieve, and the required resources to realize our aims.

We must organize the Palestinian community in the United States. To realize this aim we need some resources, but not many. So far, attempts to reorganize the General Federation of Palestinian Students is continuing. We must be able to develop certain mechanisms to coordinate the activities of various currents and overcome political dismemberment among Palestinian ranks.

It is both regrettable and disgusting that for a year and a half we have failed to organize an activity on the national level to support the intifadah. This is unbelievable. There are active individuals and academicians, but this is insufficient.

What is required is to mobilize the entire Arab community. This situation enbales the enemy to black out the intifadah news, because we have not provided alternative channels of information for the American people. It is ironical that while a sort of Palestinian introversion is noticed in the United States, the Palestinian peace initiative is being discussed worldwide. Our activity here does not reflect what the PLO is doing. The PLO is taking courageous initiatives, while we in this country have been unable to take a single brave initiative.

[Milhim] Edward Said's call for a critical assessment of the Palestinian-U.S. relations has stirred up wide-scale debates among Palestinian and Arab circles and received popular attention. Said's call was also crtiticized by some Palestinian figures. Some of this criticism was made in private and was not published, and reflected profound discontent with any assessment or criticism.

[Abu Lughod] Edward Said's interview with AL-QABAS had a very significant influence. Generally speaking, it can be said that the stands expressed by Edward Said are among the most positive stands expressed in this country for years. Although Said's remarks were generally confined to the U.S. arena, I believe that clever people can use apply his remarks to other geographic areas and pose questions on the Palestinian performance in order to come up with a constructive, critical assessment.

Edward Said's stands are positive because although they are geographically limited, they are comprehensive in terms of content. I talked with a large number of Palestinians with various backgrounds. I did not hear from anyone that he does not agree 99 percent with what Edward Said said. Some of them agree with him 200 percent.

The interview had a negative impact on some people who responded defensively, because they felt that Said meant them. Perhaps some of the expressions used in the interview were not the best, something which created the wrong impressions.

'Arafat Thanks Pope for Solidarity

JN2910092089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1927 GMT 28 Oct 89

["Text" of message by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Pope John Paul II; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of our Palestinian people and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, I would like to express to your holiness our profound thanks and extreme appreciation for the expressions of support and backing you bestowed on our Palestinian people's just cause in your blessed prayers last Sunday, 22 October. Your expressions of solidarity have made a great impression on our Palestinian people, the world's suffering and militant peoples, as well as on all free and honest people, because your expressions have been a resounding cry to awaken the world conscience and to make it stand alongside truth and justice and alongside suffering people. With your prayers, you have communicated to the entire world the agonies of our people and nation resulting from the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Gaza, Nabulus, and other towns and villages of our occupied land.

Your holiness, you know that despite their suffering, our people are determined to make and establish peace on the land of peace, the blessed land of Palestine, on which the three heavenly religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—coexist and constitute an indivisible part of our human heritage and culture. For the sake of peace, our people have launched an important initiative, represented by the call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices to be attended by the UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the dispute, including the PLO on an equal footing with other parties. Our ultimate objective is to achieve a just peace and forge a just two-state settlement allowing for the establishment of a peaceful coexistence and entrenching the pillars of security and tranquility in the region to enable our people to live like other peoples within their independent state free of fear, anguish, and suffering.

I thank you, your holiness, and beseech God to bless and preserve you and assist you to achieve the aspired peace on this agonized land, the land of peace, the land of Palestine.

Your venerable holiness, please accept profound respect and greetings.

Algeria

Arms Cache, Poisons Found on Boat; Man Arrested

LD3010160989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Light has been shed on the case of a person called Abdelwahab Ben Chenouf, who was trying to import arms and bombs and was caught recently near Dellys, on the coast. He was arrested and has been turned over to the law.

Our colleague Bariza Berrazzak asked Hadj Seddouk, director of urban security in Algiers Province about this case, its circumstances, and other information. He tells the story:

[Begin recording] [Seddouk] One day, we discovered a destroyed boat on the beach, 1 km from Dellys port. Coastguards discovered the boat and informed the security services who went to the spot. After a search, they found a quantity of arms, another quantity of poisonous chemical products, and authentic documents belonging to that person, and also false documents. After this, and with the help of the citizens in the region, some of them informed the services and told us that they had seen an injured person in the region. After having shown them photos, we were sure that the person in question was Abdelwahab Ben Chenouf. The boat contained arms and chemical products, a list which expert Nakkoud will give to you later on. [passage omitted]

[Berrazzak] (?Do you think) there is foreign connivance in this case?

[Seddouk] There is some evidence because of the arms he had, and the bombs, which we know do not exist on the local market, and because of his silence. He refused to talk when we dealt with this issue. There is other evidence which makes us think that there is a secret hand in this. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Earthquake Toll Rises to 30 Dead, 245 Injured

LD3110082189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The death toll of the earthquake which rocked the province of Tipaza and the Algiers region on Sunday night has risen to 30 while the number of the injured has been put at 245.

The rescue operations continued yesterday evening in the hardest hit areas particularly in the regions of Nador and Chenoua, in the province of Tipaza. Moreover, a number of the residents in one of the hit areas blocked the road in protest at the slow pace of the rescue operations. The action carried out by these demonstrators prevented the trucks loaded with food supplies and blankets from reaching their destination, said the governor of the province, and this compelled the security forces to intervene to disperse the demonstrators. This operation did not result in any casualties.

President Chadli Bendjedid has received a detailed report from the prime minister, Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, on the rescue operations in the affected areas. The head of state has also sent messages of condolence to the victims' families and he himself received messages of condolence and sympathy from abroad, especially from King Fahd, King Hassan II, President Mubarak, and the amir of Kuwait.

National People's Army Officers Go to Lebanon

LD3010200389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] We have learned from informed sources that another group of officers of the National People's Army left today for Lebanon aboard a military aircraft. We recall that two high-ranking officers are at present in Lebanon.

Egypt

Sudan's Al-Bashir Telephones Mubarak

NC2910173389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, tonight telephoned President Mubarak for an exchange of views on several issues of common interest to the two brotherly nations as well as aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Ghali on Contacts Dealing With Kurmuk Situation

NC3010125989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Egypt is following the situation in the southeastern Sudan city of Kurmuk with interest and is carrying out intensive contacts with a number of African states to contain the situation and provide an appropriate climate to conduct a new dialogue between Khartoum and the Garang group.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated this today, adding that what Egypt is doing does not merely proceed from the fraternal relations between Egypt and Sudan but also from the responsibility Egypt shoulders during President Husni Mubarak's tenure as OAU chairman.

'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Baz Receive Soviet Envoy

NC3010182889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Today Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received Gennadiy Tarasov, Middle East envoy of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnazde.

Tarasov also met for an hour with Dr Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Following the two meetings, the Soviet envoy said they discussed all aspects of the Middle East situation and various ideas proposed to give momentum to the peace process.

The Soviet envoy emphasized that all plans proposed deserve discussion. Asked if there is a Soviet plan, he said: There is indeed a very good plan which was proposed by Eduard Shevardnazde during his visit to Cairo last February.

Asked if this plan was still alive, Tarasov said it still exists and could be effective.

Asked to comment on Israel's position and continuing aggression in the occupied territory, Tarasov said that he believes that what is happening there is a matter of grave concern to the international community. He added that basic human rights are violated daily and described this situation as very dangerous to regional stability.

The Soviet envoy said that the main reason for this is the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and that a settlement must be found very soon. He said that a solution must be found to such violations, and that no settlement can be achieved in the Middle East unless all parties concerned participate, including Syria, in order to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Tarasov said that the purpose of his tour in the region is to contact and consult with all parties concerned—the Arab states and the PLO. He added that he will complete his consultations with Egypt on some points and that other parties could be contacted at a certain stage.

Asked if he meant contacting Israel, Tarasov said that if the situation required a visit to Israel, he would not hesitate to go there if the conditions were ripe.

Asked what the Soviet Union could do to exert pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to reach an agreement, the Soviet envoy said that the entire international community, western states, United States, Arab states, and the Soviet Union have several opportunities to help achieve a just settlement in the Middle East and that the United Nations can play an effective role in this respect.

Asked about President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union, Tarasov affirmed that his country welcomes this visit, which will take place next year. The exact date will be fixed through diplomatic channels, he said.

Petroleum Minister Returns From Visit to Rome

NC2910210489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening from Rome following a 4-day visit to Italy.

The petroleum minister said in an arrival statement that an agreement was signed during his visit with the Italian company ENI [National Hyrdocarbons Corporation] on a $900 million program. Of this sum, $200 million is earmarked for exploration and $300 million for development, with the remainder will be spent on expenses.

U.S. Grants $136 Million for Energy Project

JN2910180089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 9

[By Ahmad Hashim]

[Excerpts] Egypt has signed an agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] according to which Egypt will get a $136 million grant to be allocated to the projects to generate power in the second 5-year plan and to carry out economic feasibility studies for important projects to provide electrical energy for industrial, agricultural, land reclamation, construction, and services projects.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. For the United States, the agreement was signed by American Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner. [passage omitted]

The minister of electricity and energy said the United States has offered a $225 million contribution to build the Shubra al-Khaymah power station, which is considered the largest thermal station in Egypt, the Middle East, and Africa.

Eng al-Sa'id 'Isa, head of the Egyptian Electricity Authority, attended the signing ceremony.

Arab Development Fund Director Arrives

NC2910163989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, director of the Arab Development Fund, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit that will last for several days. He said that he will sign an agreement to link the electricity networks of Egypt and Jordan during his visit. [passage omitted]

Israel's Nuclear Cooperation With RSA Viewed

NC3010074289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct(MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that recent reports about cooperation between Israel and South Africa's racist government concern a matter that has not been a secret to the United States for years.

In an editorial today, the paper says that the suspicious silence and total passivity with which Washington has met these reports raise doubts about how much U.S. officials understand the far-reaching consequences that might result from ignoring the Israeli Government's behavior and the great perils which such behavior might bring to the world.

The paper hopes that Washington will not wait until it is too late to discover that the policy of coddling and complete partiality which has become an attribute of the so-called "special relations" has been an unforgivable error whose harmful consequences will not be restricted to the Arab countries or the Middle East, but will spread unlimited to wider and wider boundaries.

The paper points out that it is impossible to confine any nuclear war, even a very limited one, because the mere firing of the first nuclear missile at any target in the world will be the signal for the beginning of a total global nuclear war. The paper asserts that it is not in the interest of the major powers, chiefly the United States, to leave humanity's fate in the hands of a group of adventurers—the descendants of a mythic hero who demolished the temple over his own and his enemies' heads.

Unified Arab Stand Needed To Break Stalemate

JN2910162389 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 1

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "How To Break the Deadlock"]

[Text] During the opening of the Israeli Knesset's new session last Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stood up and appealed to the United States to exercise patience toward the slow peace process. Anyone who heard what Shamir said would think that the United States has lost patience, which is not true. The United States might have expressed its concern over the peace stalemate at certain times, but this does not mean that it has lost its patience. The United States might also have occasionally expressed its dissatisfaction with the peace efforts which have reached a deadlock, but this also does not mean that patience is at an end.

It is obvious that whenever an attempt appears in the international arena to break the stalemate surrounding the situation in the Middle East, Israel hastens either to reject this attempt or to maneuver to return to the stalemate situation once again. Usually, the United States stands still; if it moves, it takes cautious, calculated steps. At this stage, many people wonder: Has the United States become incapable of pressuring Israel? Has the United States become incapable of convincing Israel to move, instead of insisting on rejecting every proposal and proposition, including ideas and views to break the deadlock and reactivate the peace process? Is the United State unable to pressure Israel or is it unwilling to do so? The truth is that it is unwilling to pressure Israel. After all, what motivates the United States to exert this pressure, and what will it gain from it?

The United States is not just a friend of Israel; it is also an ally. If some Arabs consider themselves friends of the United States, there is a big difference between a friend and an ally. A friend might disagree with a friend, and might even desert him; but it is difficult for an ally to disagree with or abandon an ally because of their mutual interests and shared objectives. Therefore, it is natural for the United States to side with its ally, even if this stand bothers or angers its friends. This is what has happened most of the time, and what is frequently happening. The United States position has frequently angered the Arabs, but it has rarely angered Israel.

The United States is an important party that we cannot forget, ignore, or disregard. I do not believe that the United States will change its views unless it feels that its absolute bias toward Israel might harm its interests with the Arabs. An attitude change requires the emergence of a unified Arab stand capable of exerting pressure to restore balance to U.S.-Arab relations as well as U.S.-Israeli relations. Frankly, this stand is absent and nonexistent. Because of the absence of this unified, pressuring Arab stand, the U.S. stand will not change.

All the efforts made to convince the United States to side with what is right and to break the stalemate surrounding the peace process, are almost Egypt's alone. This alone is not enough. If we want to break the stalemate and change the U.S. stand, there has to be a unanimous, pressuring Arab stand. Because this stand is absent, and because of Arab divisions, we should not blame the United States if it continues to side with Israel.

Radio Program Views Arab Unity, Ties With Libya

NC3110082889 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Oct 89

["Dialogue With a Listener"]

[Text] The dialogue in this episode of our program is with brother listener Muhammad Bayyumi al-Haruni from Shubra Bukhum, al- Minufiyah, the Arab Republic of Egypt. He has sent a letter in which he refers to the importance of Arab unity and of closing ranks on all issues. He hails past and current efforts to attain a reconciliation between Egypt and Syria and asks what these efforts have so far achieved.

To begin with, we agree with the brother listener over the importance of Arab unity, represented by closed ranks that confront major challenges, particularly forthcoming ones.

One example that can still be recalled is when the Arab nation adopted a united stand during the glorious October war and the period that followed. The result was that the Arabs then held sixth place among the world's major powers. As God has endowed us with all the requisite natural, historic, and linguistic factors to achieve unity, it becomes our duty, we the Arabs, to seek sincerely to translate this unity into actual fact. We

should do this, particularly when we see that the countries of West Europe have set the end of 1992 as the date for attaining economic integration, despite the fact that these countries have major differences in all aspects. Indeed, some of them waged war on others and occupied their territories for some time.

If we speak about the ties between Egypt, Syria, and Libya, we cannot ignore the facts of history, particularly as some of these facts and events belong to recent contemporary history. All of us remember that the first Arab union in our nation's history was that between Egypt and Syria which produced the United Arab Republic. All hostile forces joined ranks to destroy this union to avert the emergence of the great power that it represented vis-a-vis foreign ambitions. All of us remember that one of the most important factors of the success of the first strike in the glorious October war was the complete coordination between Egypt and Syria and the simultaneous movement of the two countries' soldiers to demolish mighty military fortifications on both fronts.

Perhaps we do not need to go far back into history to learn that numerous invasions, including the Crusades, were crushed as a result of the cohesion of the Egyptian and Syrian fronts. Hence, we realize that any foreign scheme hostile to the Arab nation must at first delay and impede any Egyptian-Syrian unified effort. Likewise such a scheme must also destroy any relationship that might develop between Egypt and Libya because this would mean that the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb would be linked via the Libyan-Egyptian bridge and that this would transfer Arab unity from the sphere of theory to that of practice. This is a very concise and direct portrayal of the current situation. Any Arab dispute will benefit only the enemies of the Arabs.

Perhaps, brother listener, while following up the efforts to unite Arab ranks, you have noticed that Egypt, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, is trying to mobilize unified Arab efforts by all means. It will not despair of calling on the Arabs to rally around the issues on which they agree and to set aside their differences. Therefore, it has been natural for Arab flags to flutter in the sky of the Egyptian capital and for Egypt to return to its place in the Arab League and in numerous other Arab specialized organizations.

Here it is necessary for us to join you in hailing the persevering efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and the Saudi Monarch King Fahd to clear the general atmosphere of Arab relations and Egyptian-Syrian ties, particularly as there are no disputes or grudges between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. Moreover the Egyptian and Syrian presidents used to be comrades-in-arms as fighter pilots.

Regarding the situation with Libya, there are absolutely no differences between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples. Just recently, a summit was held between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Libyan President [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and they agreed to bolster and promote relations between the two countries in all spheres.

Thus, does the Arab nation interpret its faith based on the inevitability of united Arab ranks and the fact that Libya is an integral part of the Arab world? It is not permissible or proper to leave this part out of any unified and sincere endeavor.

Finally, the Voice of the Arabs and the staff of the Dialogue With a Listener program greet brother listener Muhammad Bayyumi al-Haruni from Shubra Bukhum village in al-Minufiyah governorate, the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Editorial Urges Direct Israeli-Palestinian Talks

JN2910160089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Fact That Must Be Addressed"]

[Text] Once again a senior U.S. official, this time Secretary of State James Baker, asserts that there will be no peace in the Middle East without the Israelis and Palestinians sitting face to face at the negotiating table. Thus, Baker has confirmed a fact that needs no proof and is recognized by the entire civilized world, because the sole alternative is war and bloodshed. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not convinced of this fact, which he does not like. Even if he pretends to be accepting it, he refuses to sit with the legitimate representatives of the other party to the conflict, and demands a Palestinian delegation selected by him whose members will be a source of relief for him.

Perhaps it is the first time in the history of international negotiations that one of the parties sets his own conditions on the formation of the delegation that will represent the other party, and, moreover, arrogantly demands a say in who will represent the other delegation. Shamir's illusions make him think that he can get a Palestinian delegation that will accept any fake settlement to achieve his illogical and unreasonable objectives of holding on to both land and peace.

What is more bizarre is that the superpower that has adopted Israel and supplies it with all means of life and survival and in all cases agreed to hold negotiations with the legitimate Palestinian organization approximately a year ago and is continuing the talks. This exposes the falsehood of the pretexts Shamir uses to reject the participation of the PLO in any talks to restore peace in the Middle East.

Any dispute in the world must at least have two parties. To reach a just and durable solution to this dispute, the two parties must meet face to face so as to remove all causes of dispute. Undoubtedly, the Palestine question is not an exception. It is hoped that Shamir will eventually be convinced of this logic to which there is no alternative.

Commentary Views Iran's 'Interference' in Lebanon

NC3010175989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary "We Have To Reject Others' Interference in Lebanese Affairs"]

[Text] Because General Michel 'Awn, prime minister of the military government in Lebanon, still rejects the al-Ta'if agreement and demands that it be abrogated, and because for one reason or another he believes his word is law, his political calculations are precise, and his national course is the sound one, it was only natural that voices on the other side should oppose the al-Ta'if agreement. We had feared this and maintained that the events of the last moments in such crises always involved mortal dangers.

Significantly, the Lebanese Shiites have also begun to reject the al-Ta'if agreement, saying that it has given the Muslims more influence in general but that the only parties who stand to gain are the Sunnites. We began to hear loud voices saying that the Shiites are the largest sect, that in the past they suffered from great injustice and bore many sacrifices throughout the years of the war, and, consequently, that the al-Ta'if agreement did not rise to the level of ending the sectarian political structure in Lebanon.

Needless to say, no one can claim that the al-Ta'if agreement can formulate a political equation that would satisfy all parties or evade the sensitivities of a half century of a very peculiar political practice in Lebanon. However, this agreement certainly overcame the greatest obstacle that previously precluded any serious attempt to reach a new formula for national accord. This is the obstacle of sectarian distribution of posts between the Christians and Muslims in general. The agreement did not delve into subsidiary sectarian details within the general sectarian framework.

The new tune played by the Shiites these days is a return to old practices that were the main cause of 15 years of violent infighting. This tune is rejected in form and content. The mere continuation of this issue only expresses political bankruptcy and disrespect for the circumstances of a country that has been fragmented and turned into ruins.

What has prompted the Shiite leaders to reject the al-Ta'if agreement well over a week after it had been reached? Answering this question is not difficult. Iran declared through its foreign minister, who recently visited Damascus, its opposition to the al-Ta'if agreement. Since Iran used the right of veto, the Shiite leaders, during the meetings between the Iranian foreign minister with the Syrian officials, hastened to declare their opposition to the al-Ta'if agreement. Apart from the Lebanese Shiite leaders' opposition to the agreement, we also want to understand the reason for Iranian interference in the internal affairs of an Arab country.

Is this a continuation of the policy of exporting the Iranian revolution to neighboring countries, or is it aimed at moving the conflict to another battlefield after Iraqi military might cut Tehran's ambitions in the Gulf down to size? Here we would like to state that Iran has a right to establish strong and excellent ties with Syria, but it has absolutely no right to declare acceptance or rejection of a policy that is central to the national sovereignty of an Arab country.

The Iranian foreign minister is not a grand high commissioner visiting one of his protectorates to chart anew the policy he wants. This principle that Iran is trying to impose on the region is totally rejected. Since the Arab world is striving to establish a basic principle providing for noninterference of an Arab country in the domestic affairs of another Arab country, it is only obvious that all Arabs reject interference by any foreign country, no matter how close its ties are with the local parties, in the affairs of an independent Arab country.

As for the Shiite leaders in Lebanon, they should reconsider their stand because it is not advantageous for national pride and because it is linked to the stand of a foreign country that is only interested in its interests, policies, and maneuvers.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Egypt, Other Issues

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[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by editor-in-chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Banghazi—date not given]

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: With relations now back to normal, what are the prospects for Egyptian-Libyan ties after your talks with President Mubarak in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq?

The colonel: It is necessary for me to point out, to begin with, that the problems with Egypt were rooted in our differences over the pan-Arab issue. Egypt had its viewpoint, and we had our different viewpoint, and so there was a clash in our perceptions. The issue was not—as some have sought to portray it—one of disagreement as to leadership between one Arab country and another. The disagreement had a pan-Arab dimension beyond the scope of Egyptian-Libyan relations. I think the meetings with President Mubarak in Casablanca and later in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq have produced quite a substantial degree of understanding over the pan-Arab problem, thus making it possible for us to proceed together unhindered, hand in hand, toward the foreseeable future of Egyptian-Libyan relations and in the interest of common Arab action.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: The Marsa Matruh and Tubruq sessions have produced agreement on a number of physical, concrete measures

that directly affect the interests of citizens in the two countries. Perhaps there were no banner headlines; maybe the results did not measure up to your expectations regarding the unity issue; in the end, though, we now have practical steps laying down sound foundations for the benefit of the two peoples.

The colonel: That is correct. In the past, we hoped that agreement between the political ranks of the two countries was the right approach to building common interests. This has not succeeded, however. Now we are trying to learn from the past. I think the realistic start we made in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq has put us on the right tack, instead of ignoring reality. We have begun removing the stumbling blocks preventing the joining together of the interests of ordinary citizens in both countries. Only such links can build the joint infrastructure on which to build political relations. I do not foresee any undue difficulty in the two countries complementing each other in the future. After all, we are one people and part of one nation with shared interests—not to mention our common destiny and future. The barbed wire erected by the Italians along our border is an artificial barrier; we are one people and ours is one land.

I would like to stress that there is absolutely no difficulty with Egypt. All we did in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq was put things back in their proper perspective, since, geographically and demographically, the two countries are, in reality, one nation.

I do not see any problem there—the meshing of relations between the two peoples goes far back into history. Before the estrangement in relations, the Egyptians showed preference for Libya as a place of work, and Libyan travellers headed for Egypt both for recreation and medical treatment. Relations between the two peoples were deep and extensive. If we had banned all this during the rupture in relations, certainly it was an arbitrary ban. It was therefore important to make the right start. We had to start from recognizing the right to work and the freedom of movement and residence. We had to proceed based on the joint interests of the two peoples.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: How could three meetings end an estrangement that lasted 16 years unless there was a mutual understanding? What are the limits of the mutual understanding reached between you and President Mubarak?

The colonel: First, I have known President Mubarak since he was commander of the Air Force, and probably before that. He also has known me for a long time. I believe that we both have good impressions about the other because we cooperated together during a period of brotherhood and sympathy before the estrangement.

During that period, in the time of Presidents 'Abd-al-Nasir and Al-Sadat, cooperation between us was very strong. Egypt could ask for anything from Libya and there would be an immediate response, and Libya could ask for anything from Egypt and there would be a quick response. President Mubarak probably knows best about the aid that Libya provided for the sake of the pan-Arab battle.

When President Mubarak assumed responsibility, under critical Egyptian and Arab circumstances, we had a sincere desire to end all the problems that had arisen with Egypt because of differences on the pan-Arab cause. An indirect dialogue took place between us through several envoys and intermediaries, but circumstances did not help it succeed.

On the one hand, Egypt had new connections, which could not be ignored. On the other, we were looking upon Egypt as if nothing had changed and as if the new administration was an extension of the old one. The mistake was that we looked upon Egypt during Mubarak's time as an extension of the Al-Sadat period. This continued to be the case until matters were clarified and it became obvious that under President Mubarak, Egypt was going through a different phase.

Our direct meeting in Casablanca has paved the way for our mutual understanding. This is because it was impossible, in the climate of Egyptian-Libyan relations to learn about, or understand matters as they really were through the media, which were then engaged in mutual battles.

We met in Casablanca, and in that direct meeting, I understood the man's standing and position. I may even say that I valued that position highly. President Mubarak believed that the times had changed and that the issue was no longer one of an enemy and arms. He believed that agreement on the supreme objectives does not prevent us from using different methods to achieve those objectives. He believed that Arab solidarity was capable of guaranteeing pan- Arab rights. He also believed that the current period should not be one of wailing and shouting, but a period of cultural building, because without economic, technological, and cultural excellence, it is difficult for us to talk about our ability to face future challenges.

In Casablanca, our views were in agreement on means to confront future challenges, on the nature of the coming age, and on the importance of the cultural battle in winning a secure and prosperous future for the Arabs. This is because parity between us and Israel cannot be achieved by increasing the number of soldiers or weapons. But, it can be achieved through economic power, technological capability, and cultural excellence.

We have discovered here that our insistence on boycotting Egypt means helping the Israelis to achieve their goals. We have discovered that we should not allow the Israelis to be an obstacle to Arab solidarity and unity, because by accepting such a role for the Israelis, we achieve their goals for them. They were happy when they opened an embassy in Egypt and caused a boycott between Egypt and the Arabs. They also caused an estrangement between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples, who are the two closest Arab peoples.

We may disagree over the existence of that embassy in Cairo, but this is not the end of the road. I can finally say that our Arab will has prevailed through this meeting, despite the existence of an Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Do you not believe that the Arabs have the right to a just peace that will fulfill the Palestinians' national aspirations and will bring stability to the region?

The Colonel: The problem is that the Israelis do not want peace. At least this is what I believe. It is they who committed aggression in 1948 and they have started all the wars in Palestine . They have bombed Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, Tunis, Beirut, and Libya, while not one of our planes has raided any of their cities. I believe they will fight us again and they will not respond to any peace calls because war has become part of the Israeli society.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: I have a direct question. What do you want from Egypt, and how do you view its role in the current circumstances?

The Colonel: I want Egypt to maintain its enthusiasm in calling for an Arab unity. I want Egypt to play a leading role and to continue to lead Arab action from the ocean to the Gulf. I do not believe that this call conflicts with Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. The Israelis have nothing to do with the Arab nation's efforts to unify itself and protect its rights effectively in a world that has no place for small entities.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: The voice of Arab unity has faded away slightly because the Arab masses have reached the brink of dispair as a result of several abortive unionist experiences.

The Colonel: Even if the Arab masses have been disappointed by repeated failures, Cairo should play a leading role to regain the confidence of the Arab masses in the slogans of Arab unity because this age is the age of larger entities.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: What do you have to say about the guarantees for the continuation and stability of Egyptian-Libyan relations? For although what happened has received an enthusiastic welcome, there are still fears that something could suddenly change the ship's course.

The colonel: No one has a crystal ball to predict the intentions of those who seek to torpedo this rapprochement. Only God knows this. I can say however, that on the basis of our intentions, capabilities, and the understanding reached between President Mubarak and myself in Casablanca, Marsa Matruh, and Tubruq, we agree on the need to work, and to protect our work from any threat of collapse. I believe that we have had a rich experience from which we have learned valuable lessons. We have tried estrangement and media campaigns, and planted mines in border areas. Can we do more than what we have actually done? I say that it would be ridiculous and pointless to return to insults and estrangement, or to impair our capabilities.

It was abnormal that tension prevailed on the Egyptian-Libyan border. If you ask an Egyptian soldier standing behind the barbed wire about his tribe, he will say that he is from the al-Qata'inah tribe. When you ask a Libyan soldier on the other side, you will find that he is from the same tribe. They are both from the same tribe. So, how can a confrontation take place between two brothers?!

AL-MUSAWWAR: Some of the resolutions announced in Tubruq, for example those on entry by identity cards, the freedom of movement, work, tourism, and medical treatment, could have been expected. However, the agreement on linking the two countries by railway between al-Sallum and Tubruq was a surprise. Whose idea was this, and what purpose does the al-Sallum-Tubruq railway serve?

The colonel: The railway was already there, but it has been neglected since World War II. When President Mubarak proposed the renovation of the railway, he added a new artery to relations between the two countries, or he linked the one body with a new artery so that there would be land, sea, and railway links. The objective is to serve the people's interests both here and there, because there is no difference between a Libyan and an Egyptian. They are one people. If you ask the people who live in the area around Tubruq about their origins, you will find that they belong to the al-Qata'inah, al-Dab'an, and Awlad 'Ali tribes—the tribes of Marsa Matruh, al-Sallum, and the Western Sahara. They are all of the same kin and belong to one tribe. Perhaps, you have met Eng Ahmad Hilmi, who was a minister of light industries in Egypt. He is currently occupying the same post in Libya. In light of this, it is our duty to promote relations between the people both here and there, because in the end, they are one people and they love each other.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Is it still premature to ask about the causes of the delay in the exchange of diplomatic representation between the two countries? The question is important because, in Marsah Matruh and Tubruq, you made many decisions whose implementation between the two countries must be followed up.

The colonel: Perhaps you know that there has been no diplomatic representation between Egypt, Libya, and Syria since the establishment of the Federation of Arab Republics. We have no ambassador in Damascus, and Syria has no ambassador in Libya. There are representatives at liaison offices in the two countries. Similarly, there is no diplomatic representation between Libya and Tunisia. We both have envoys who handle relations between the two capitals. I have agreed with President Mubarak to establish follow-up bureaus in Egypt and Libya whose task will be to follow up implementation of the decisions and to prepare for meetings of the joint ministerial committees.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What will be the structure of these bureaus?

The colonel: They will include individuals who will have complete authority to follow up on all bilateral issues.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: You have fought many battles to accomplish numerous unity projects. However, unity was not attained, perhaps because the prevailing state of affairs was more difficult. Why do you not review all past experiments, for such a review may indicate to us the beginning of the correct solution?

The colonel: The truth is that our experience is rich with the lessons we have learned. Efforts to achieve Arab unity have not been in vain. I can see that they have not failed. This experience has brought about a huge asset for unity and has left a rich heritage of unity, whose impact we are now feeling. All Arabs are now convinced of what we have been calling for over the past 20 years.

Had the Arabs cast off their doubts about unity, we would be living now in a stronger, more secure, and more prestigious position under the banner of unity. I believe that the Arab position is now inclined to accept unity action more than at any previous time because unity has become a necessity and not only an emotional demand. Those who viewed it in the past as being an emotional demand now beleive that it has become a necessity of daily life. In a few years, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] were established, and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] is now being formed. In the past, it was difficult to make four or five countries work toward the same objective. The picture is different now because all are convinced that several crucial issues the Arab nation curently faces can only be solved properly within the framework of unionist action.

Who would have believed that the Arab League Council would finally approve a Libyan draft resolution for changing the Arab League charter to make the Arab summit a presidium composed of the Arab prime ministers; an executive council composed of the competent Arab ministers; specialized councils; a specialized council of industry ministers; and another council of agriculture ministers to support the idea of unity in its economic and concrete aspects, such as joint ventures to bind Arab countries together on the basis of common interests and a single infrastructure?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Our objectives of 20 years ago may have been the right ones. Our approaches to them, though, may have not been realistic. We perceived unity as a mere political object that required nothing more than the will of this or that government for it to be achieved.

The colonel: In fact, the goals were correct. Ways and means have varied, however. We now have two approaches:

The first argues that united political ranks would help change a parochial, inward looking state into a unionist one. That was how we approached our past unity attempts. We thought that having political leaders shoulder the responsibility for decisions would help unionist steps forward. The problem with this approach is that the fate of the unionist entity would be subject to relations among top leaders. Differences among leaders would spell the end of unity and a breakup of the unionist entity.

The second approach is that unity must start at the foot of the mountain and ascend step by step toward the summit. It must begin by linking citizens' interests through the infrastructure of road and electricity networks and through a complementarity of industrial and agricultural projects of the countries involved in the unity plan. This is because a network of interests will spur the masses to defend the unity and deepen its roots. It is fair to say that both approaches have their pluses and minuses. Opting for either of them must depend on political and social conditions.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency, the President: The call for pan-Arabism coincides with the call for European unity. The two began simultaneously. While Europe is now nearing full economic unity as the year 1992 approaches, we Arabs are still staggering at the beginning of the road. How do you explain the success of the Europeans and our failure?

The colonel: The reasons are well known. European unity has succeeded because there is a uniform European social fabric. No great disparities exist in the levels of progress of European countries. All of them share one social system. Despite the fact that the Europeans hail from different ethnic origins, numerous factors have helped create conditions favorable to unity. As for us, in spite of our common destiny and language, and our common ethnic origin, we are still hamstrung by numerous contradictions, including social disparities. We are also held back by divergent political systems. Some Arabs were apprehensive about the liberation of Palestine out of fear that a liberated Palestine would adopt a socialist line!

Some Arabs believed that they had stronger affinity for a Western capitalist country than for a sisterly Arab state of a different political philosophy. Some Arabs believed any socialist country was closer to them than any sisterly Arab state. Nonetheless, no one can ignore the fact that the Europeans have done the right thing by focusing on their joint interests and graduating from economics to politics, and by starting at the bottom of the ladder to reach the top.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: There are now three new regional entities on the Arab arena—the GCC, the ACC, and the UMA. Do you believe these new regional entities will help establish Arab unity? Do you think that these entities have chosen a more realistic and practical course by concentrating on the need to

establish a sound base, beginning with coordination and leading to integration and unity?

The colonel: If these entities succeed in carrying out their declared programs, particularly in economic cooperation, then they will have taken an important step in the Arabs' march toward unity. They will certainly move the Arab situation to a better position because understanding among three or four Arab entities is far better than understanding among 21 states.

In any case, what is important is that unity is the ultimate goal for these new entities. This is because, without joint coordination among these entities, division and secession may become established features of our Arab world.

We believe that the Libyan plan, which the Casablanca summit conference agreed to include in the amendments to the Arab League's charter, will provide the Arab League with an opportunity to allow it to become an umbrella under which all of these regional entities can exist.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Are you referring to the plan to transform the summit conference into a presidium with an executive board composed of Arab heads of government and specialized committees composed of the appropriate ministers?

The colonel: Yes. A study to combine the clauses of this plan with the amendments to the Arab League charter actually began during the meeting of the Arab League's experts. This will be followed by a study of the plan in the Arab League's Council so that the final draft can be made and presented to the next summit conference.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: If I understand this correctly, you believe these new regional entities will move the Arab situation to a better position than the current fragmentation.

The colonel: Yes, and I support and back these new entities.

AL-MUSAWWAR: On this basis, what was the limit of the mutual understanding reached between you and President Mubarak on the issues of Arab unity and solidarity?

The colonel: We both agree on the need for joint coordination, linking the masses' economic interests, and building a sound infrastructure, because this is the guarantee for progress toward any sound unionist relations.

As I said earlier, we must begin with the people's daily and vital interests. The resolutions we announced in Tubruq show our clear view and determination to build a sound base for our mutual relations. When the masses' interests are interconnected and the arteries are running in the same body, it will be impossible for any individual to risk severing these relations because he would be acting against the people's interests.

We have a clear example in the Libyan-Tunisian relations. In the past, rulers and presidents were able to meet on border areas. They could agree or differ on something, but their agreement or differences could affect the interests of the peoples in the two countries. However, the situation is different now, because there are joint interests between the Libyans and Tunisians. Interests were promoted through the two countries' agreement on the freedom of movement and work, and on exempting national products from customs fees. These joint interests constitute the true guarantee against any attempts to sever deep relations between the two peoples. What applies to Egypt and Libya, or Libya and Tunisia, applies to inter-Arab relations throughout the Arab homeland. Therefore, it is necessary to concentrate on establishing a strong base of joint and closely connected interests.

What is the use of a car factory in each of Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, and a fourth one in another country? The four factories will not have the same high efficiency that would enable them to compete because none of the four countries has a market that allows for a successful industry. However, the situation would be different if Egypt chooses to manufacture the engine, Iraq chooses to manufacture the chassis, and another state chooses to manufacture the pulling equipment. Here, there would be an integration of Arab interests in a manner that would allow the Arab nation to compete with other car industries. In short, unity must have a sound economic basis that links Arab interests. This is because unity will continue to be a mere political slogan if it does not mean an economic strength and closely connected interests, and the safeguarding of national and pan-Arab dignity.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency: Since you are a member of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], what is the volume of achievements that have been made within the framework of this regional entity that includes Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco? Is the Sahara problem still an obstacle to the establishment of this union?

The colonel: The Sahara problem could have been an obstacle to the establishment of the AMU. However, we have ignored this problem, or, to be more accurate, we have put it aside for the sake of a greater objective, and we went to Morocco to work for the establishment of this union. Frankly, I say that the problem is still unresolved. There are fears that ignoring the problem might torpedo the union, but we are trying to prevent this.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why is there no Arab agreement and consensus that Arab problems should be resolved within the framework of negotiations or arbitration instead of confrontation and war?

The colonel: It is a very grave mistake that an Arab fights against another Arab regardless of the reasons behind this war. I believe that a solution to the Sahara problem can only be achieved through negotiations.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why has Libya not exerted any efforts in this respect, particularly that it was a party in

creating this problem when it armed the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario]?

The colonel: We exerted a huge effort to convince the two parties to agree to negotiations and to sit together to seek a peaceful settlement for the problem. Morocco's announcement of its acceptance of this direct dialogue with Polisario was the result of this Libyan effort.

We do not deny that we helped the Polisario. We were the ones who trained and armed them to have them confront the Spanish occupation of the Sahara. When the Spanish withdrew and the Moroccan Army replaced it, the conflict became a war between Morocco and the Polisario. We also do not deny that we continued to support the Polisario during that period until the Polisario forces reached 15,000 men who were trained for desert and guerrilla warfare. However, we reassessed our stand and suspended the weapons supplies, and asked the Polisario to turn to negotiations.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why this sudden change of stand?

The colonel: The war became a protracted one and exhausted both sides without either of them succeeding in settling the situation on the battlefield. For this reason, we deemed it necessary to end the shedding of Arab blood. This was in addition to the fact that Morocco had accepted the idea of a plebiscite. Now all the efforts focus on holding this plebiscite.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You are calling for Arab unity as there will be no future for small entities. But at the same time, you help the Polisario to establish a new small entity?

The colonel: In principle, I am against the establishment of these small entities. But the incorporation of the Sahara people into the state of Morocco should take place through negotiations and agreement, without any coercion on the Sahara people.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: If I ask you about Libya's relations with its neighbors such as Sudan, Chad, and Tunisia, will we be able to say that a new atmopshere of reconciliation prevails over Libya's relations with these neighbor countries?

The colonel: There is no doubt that a new atmopshere of general reconciliation prevails over Libya's relations with all of its neighbors. Our relations with Tunisia are excellent. We are bound together by a unionist program which we are implementing without undue haste and with sincerity through the establishment of joint institutions seeking the two countries' unity.

AL-MUSAWWAR: There is no longer any dispute over the problem of borders in the continental shelf, or any problems resulting from the exploitation of the oil wells in these areas which were the subject of rival claims?

The colonel: There are no longer any problems. Although the International Court of Justice had acknowledged Libya's right to the oil well you have mentioned, we agreed with Tunisia that revenues from this well will be invested in joint ventures which link the two people's interests. I and brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left for the area and inaugurated this oil well, and announced to the two people our determination to jointly invest its revenues. Here we must say that what has been attained in the field of Libyan-Tunisian relations would not have taken place had not the 7 November movement taken place, a movement which changed the rule in Tunisia. This is so because much of what we have attained is thanks to the efforts of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What do you think about the Tunisian president?

The colonel: Brother Zine El Abidine is an excellent statesman. He is one of those who believes in the sincerity of the Egyptian course under brother President Husni Mubarak and the two are bound by excellent ties of brotherhood. President Zine El Abidine is a direct man who does not have any maliciousness or crookedness and he is honest and has a clean slate. He loves the Arabs and works for the sake of unity. He also rejects hegemony and asserts the independence of Tunisian decisionmaking.

I want to add that what I like about a number of Arab presidents now is that they divert their attention to the problems of the ordinary citizen. They go to the masses in their positions, get firsthand acquaintance with their conditions, and ask about their problems. Like President Husni Mubarak, who overworks himself by meeting the people of his homeland in their different positions and asks about their conditions. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali does the same and so do a number of Arab presidents. This did not exist before. This is the real revolution.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: I wish to ask you about Libya's relations with Chad after the recent conciliation?

The colonel: Relations with Chad are good. In our recent meeting, we resolved all the disputed problems and there are no longer any problems between Libya and Chad. However, the problem in Chad is that there is still fear about the possibilities of a renewal of the conflict there, particularly on the borders with Sudan in the East where the fighting resumed among the warring Chadian groups, and especially since some Chadian troops left Ndjamena to the East to take part in the fighting which is taking place there.

Chad's problem lies in the fact that it failed to melt all these different races, ethnic groups, and religions in the pot of the single homeland. We on our part are doing the best we can to achieve a conciliation among all the warring groups there.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Can this not lead to Libya becoming involved once again in the internal conflict?

The colonel: Libya will never be a party to any internal conflict concerning Chad. Our only role will be to help—as much as we can and as much as circumstances would allow—reconcile the warring Chadian factions. But, we will not side with any party.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What remains is for us to ask about the nature of current relations between Sudan and Libya?

The colonel: Those who now rule in Sudan are a nationalistic group and no one can doubt their loyalty or intentions. They love their homeland and they strive to correct its conditions. When brother 'Umar al-Bashir and a number of his comrades visited me, my first question was: What tempted you to take power in a country which has such grave problems? In their answer, I felt the depth of their national motive which prompted them to move in an attempt to save the situation in Sudan.

We have extended every possible support to the new regime because we feel its integrity. It seems that one of the problems of the Sudanese leaders is that they have not yet adopted a clear-cut program to confront the great challenges facing them. There should be a national program to put an end to this vicious circle represented in the movement of power between the military and the parties. It is a cat-and-mouse game. There should be a solution to this power struggle between the Army and the parties, because this conflict has encouraged ethnic and sectarian dispute as well as separatist movements. These negative phenomena appear only during the internal power struggle.

If the brothers in Sudan had reached a quick solution to this problem, they would have made a historic achievement for Sudan. The second problem is that some of Sudan's African neighbors believe that reconsidering Sudan's Arab identity is a sound beginning to solve the problem of rebellion in the South. Garang stresses this demand as a precondition for the unity of the homeland and the return of peace to the South. I believe that changing Sudan's Arab identity is a serious demand that should be rejected because relinquishment of Sudan's Arab identity means the possibility of changing the identity of any Arab country, where different races and sects live. We have a similar situation in Iraq, where Kurds live. We also have the same situation in Algeria and Morocco. Is such a situation enough for changing the identity of these countries?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: In all truth, the South was relatively neglected and its share of projects, services, and representation in the government was relatively small?

The colonel: That is true. I visited the South and saw the bad conditions there. But this is not the fault of the Sudanese people, but the fault of the British occupation and the reactionary governments, which entrenched these conditions both in southern and northern Sudan.

AL-MUSAWWAR: To what extent is there Egyptian-Libyan coordination on the situation in Sudan?

The colonel: We and Egypt agree that the present leaders in Khartoum are nationalists and deserve every possible support. When Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and his comrades seized power in Sudan, we were doubtful that the group seized power to pave the way for Ja'far Numayri's return to power. When we contacted President Mubarak on this issue, he clearly said that Egypt would never impose a ruler on Sudan who is rejected by the Sudanese people and that Egypt wants the Sudanese leaders to take the interests of the Sudanese homeland into consideration. This position has increased confidence between Libya and Egypt because Mubarak was truthful in everything he said.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: I hope you won't mind my next question: What is the difference between terrorism and revolution?

The colonel (laughing): On the contrary, I would very much like to answer your question. Revolution might use violence that begets terror as a political expediency at one stage. The French revolution had recourse to such tactics as had the Bolsheviks, George Washington, and Garibaldi in Italy. It is much like quick and urgent surgery until society settles down on the new bases adopted by the revolution. The greatest risk, though, lies in the revolution needlessly pursuing violence, whereby it may degenerate into gangs using terror for its own sake.

The revolutionary violence has never been at the heart of the problem, since our Arab revolutions have resorted to minimal violence to attain their goals. The problem lies with those who seek to expand the concept of terror to encompass the struggle of national liberation movements, and the sacred popular struggle for freedom. The revolution against racism in South Africa is termed by some as terror as is the revolution in the occupied Arab land, Latin America and the Martinique Islands. I see this classification as terror, pure and simple, since the aim is to strike terror in the hearts of people so that they refrain from exercising their right to national liberation. And what do you call the freewheeling of the fleets of major powers in the Mediterranean and the Gulf? What do you call the bombing and strafing of Arab cities to terrorize the people and their governments? What do you call Israel's actions in southern Lebanon? Is there any terror to match the Sabra and Shatila massacres?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: If you will excuse my blunt question, Libya may have done a disservice to itself when it embraced some groups that used terror in the name of revolutionary violence.

The colonel: At one time, we did support some of these groups without checking out their aims and roles. But, having found that they do more harm than good to the Arab cause even in terms of world public opinion, we halted our support. We had mistakenly imagined that these groups could be part of the national liberation

movement. We found that they are using terror for its own sake and on behalf of other aims unrelated to the pan-Arab cause.

To be honest, I am saying that plane hijacking and murder of civilians are criminal acts that have nothing to do with fighting. We ought not to be held to account since we have withheld our support for these groups.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: When will the revolution settle down to become an established law-based system that observes laws and respects the individual freedom in society?

The colonel: If you mean the Libyan revolution, the revolution has laid down a popular system that gives the people full power through popular congresses grouping the masses in the urban and rural centers. There are no special tribunals or emergency laws in operation now. If at one stage we had recourse to such means, it is now a thing of the past and the popular congresses are now invested with real power.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Until quite recently you were in pursuit of Libyan opposition around the world.

The colonel: Which opposition? This opposition was opposed to the people's power represented in the popular congresses. Some time ago we offered a safe return to whoever wanted to return. We do not prohibit anyone, even from the opposition, to express his viewpoint at the popular congresses. After all, the final say belongs to the majority vote in these congresses. Indeed all opponents have returned home with the exception of those who have tied their fate to foreign quarters.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: There is the question of ambition juxtaposed against abilities. Do you see yourself in full confrontation with the United States. Why don't you go for dialgue over confrontation?

The colonel: We have no objection to sitting and talking with the United States wherever they like. We have no preconditions. Let me state clearly that we do not believe in the inevitability of confrontation with the United States. Indeed, we believe that a good many of the problems between us are capable of being resolved at the conference table. We are in favor of relations based on reciprocal respect and common interests. We do not feel any hatred toward the American people. We also think the American people have no hard feelings toward us. Things were complicated during the Reagan administration when the whole world scene became a theater for muscle-flexing. We now feel that the Bush administration is going to be more rational in handling issues which the former administration thought could be dealt with by force.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: The world is currently experiencing a stage of radical changes. The USSR has withdrawn into its own shell as a result of its internal problems. It gives priority to its economic problems over any of the regional problems from which the world is suffering, in addition to its strong concern about detente. In Eastern Europe, the winds of change are blowing calling for a democratic form of government and for ending the rule of one party in favor of the multi-party system. What impact do these radical changes have on the Colonel's views, and then on our Arab world?

The colonel: Without undue assumption or exaggeration, in 1969 and 1970 I predicted what would happen in the USSR. I clearly said in the third chapter of the Green Book that I am afraid that conflict among nationalities would fragment the unity of the USSR in the near future. However, although what you have said is true, the USSR will not give up its support for Arab rights and the Palestine question.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But what is happening is that the USSR supports a peaceful settlement without having sufficient ability to guarantee the sound and just conditions for this political settlement.

The colonel: This is the USSR's policy. It believes in settling all regional problems through peaceful means. However, this does not mean that all the existing contradictions between the USSR and the United States have gone with the wind.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the nature of your relations now with the USSR? Is it true that it refuses to supply you with arms unless you pay in cash and in dollars?

The colonel: Our relations are good. What you are saying is not true. Moreover, Libya did not request new arms. What we have is sufficient. I believe that the current stage necessitates that we concentrate on the requirements of economic progress, and not on purchasing arms.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you think that the current circumstances in Iran necessitate the reactivation of the Arab-Iranian dialogue to put the Arab-Persian relations on the right course?

The colonel: I believe it is necessary to have sound neighborly relations between Iran and the Arabs. Perhaps, dialogue would help Iran move to moderation despite the fact that internal conflict still exists among the loyalists to the moderate line and the Revolutionary Guards men, who are a million volunteers, who call for abiding by Khomeyni's course.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: I have a question which I am sure must be on the minds of many and that is: Why, of all Arab leaders, do you insist on having a personal bodyguard of women?

The colonel: Those in charge of my personal safety are Libyan youths who have volunteered their services and they are of both sexes. The girs may be more conspicuous on account of their dresses. I consented to the services of these women volunteers so they may serve as role models and show that Libyan women can cope with all the tasks

that they may be entrusted with. We do not distinguish between men and women in terms of pay or work as a whole. We now have girls receiving training as Air Force pilots.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: When will your next meeting with President Mubarak be?

The colonel: We have agreed that we may meet anyplace and under all kinds of circumstances. We may arrange a meeting over the telephone.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Is there anything to prevent an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue?

The colonel: This is up to the Palestinians, and there is no reason why the Palestinians should not sit for talks with the Israelis. It happens in every corner of the world.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What would you like to say to the Egyptians?

The colonel: I would like to tell them that we are one people bound together by neighborliness and geography. The barbed wire keeping us apart is only an artificial barrier. I would also like to say that we have no problem with Egypt and had no problems with relations with Egypt. Our disagreement concerned a pan-Arab issue and President Mubarak and I have reached understanding on that. I would like to say that Libya is the point of contact between the Arab East and Arab West. The linking chain must be strong and effective. The strength of this chain derives from our fateful association with Egypt. I see the Arab world as a body whose heart is Egypt, Libya, and Sudan and wings are the eastern and western ends of the Arab homeland. We, therefore, think that our efforts on behalf of Arab unity should not cease. The thing is that we must get the first steps right and start with the common interests of our masses. I think that we have made the right step along that road in the achievements we made in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Colonel: Thank you for your time.

Italian-Libyan Investigation of Tripoli Murder

AU3010124089 Rome ANSA in English 1025 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] (ANSA) Tripoli, Oct 30—A joint Italian-Libyan investigation into the ambush and murder of an Italian outside Tripoli Wednesday [25 October] night continued over the weekend as Italian Embassy sources here said there were no indications of anti-Italian sentiment in circulation.

The ambush and slaying of Italian technician Roberto Ceccato, 35, took place on the eve of a day of "mourning" or "revenge" proclaimed by Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the victims of the Italian colonial period, from 1911 to the time of World War II. According to reports Friday [27 October], the victim was stopped near his residence and shot to death and his body was doused with gasoline and set ablaze sometime between his departure by car from the Tripoli Airport, where he had accompanied a colleague preparing to catch a flight to Banghazi, and his return to his quarters.

At the time, some 100 Libyans had arrived in Italy for visits to cemeteries where Libyan deportees are buried and another 800 Libyans without entry visas were forced to remain aboard the boat which had brought them to the Port of Naples.

Speaking Sunday [29 October], these unofficial sources said relations between the Italian investigators, led by Interpol Chief Nicola Simone, and their Libyan counterparts are good. Thus far, said these sources, it has been determined that Ceccato was shot with a 7.65 (?caliber) Bereta pistol. The murder weapons had not yet been found.

Libyan police broadened their questioning Sunday to a number of Libyans who had dealings with the victim whereas earlier, only foreigners had been interrogated, said these sources.

The Italian ambassador, Giorgio Reitano, said that, "on the Libyan side, there is total participation in the investigation."

The unofficial sources also said tensions between the two nations had visibly diminished and cited the fact that the return Sunday of the boatload of Libyans denied entry to Italy had not triggered any anti-Italian demonstration.

Nicaragua's Ruiz, Shipman Hold Cooperation Talks

LD3010150189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Arab Libyan-Nicaraguan talks began this morning at the headquarters of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The talks were attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury and Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation. They were also attended by the general secretary and director of International Cooperation Department at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and William Shipman, Nicaraguan finance minister and the ambassador of Nicaragua to the Great Jamahiriyah. These talks focused on consolidating and developing the existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua.

Joint Industrial Corporation Formed With Algeria

LD3010221989 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The constituent meeting of the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Corporation for Industrial Development was held this morning at the General People's Committee for Light Industries.

During the meeting they drew up the constituent steps for the corporation and its general policy.

Sudan

Continued Reportage on Fighting in Kurmuk

SPLA 'Official Spokesman' Comments

EA3010164489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in a message to Radio SPLA, said the strategic town of Kurmuk fell to the forces of New Funj under the operational command of the SPLA Chief of Staff Commander William Nyuan Bany, at 2000 [1800 GMT] last Saturday, 28 October 1989.

The spokesman revealed that 'Umar al-Bashir's forces have abandoned in Kurmuk all their heavy weapons recently acquired from here and there from certain quarters abroad.

Stocktaking is still going on, but the captured weapons comprise tanks and heavy artillery, including two 40-barrel BM-21 mutliple rocket launchers, both in perfect working condition, and with large quantities of BM [122mm] rockets.

The following are some of the vehicles and equipment captured in Kurmuk, all in working condition: BM number 42294; BM number 42281; tracked APC number 9795186; land-rover pickup number 56047; land rover station number 5643; land-rover pickup mounted with a 106 mm number 56119; Mercedes truck number 56286; Austin lorry number 56241; Scammell truck number 6853; Bedford lorry number 562248; Magirus truck number 56086; Magirus truck number 56096; mobile maintenance workshop without number; a large quantity of BM rockets; and a large quantity of medicines.

More details of the captured equipment will follow as soon as the stocktaking is completed.

The spokesman said the fighting was started by 'Umar al-Bashir, and when his hands got burned and his nose bloodied he started to blame the SPLA for starting the war.

The Sudanese people will recall that Radio SPLA was the first to expose 'Umar al-Bashir's military offensive against the SPLA forces in Blue Nile Province. A force under Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Jamal al-Din attacked SPLA of the New Funj at Surkum on 16 October 1989, and heavy fighting lasted 7 days. When repulsed, routed, dispersed, and destroyed, Lt Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din returned to Dondoro near Damazin with only 34 men, leaving behind more than 200 dead.

On 20 October 1989, 'Umar al-Bashir sent another force from Damazin under Colonel Muhammad Ali al-Haji, but when this force met with the remnants of Lt Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din's force, the soldiers disobeyed to continue and they returned to Dondoro.

It is as the result of these provocations by 'Umar al-Bashir that the SPLA commander in chief issued orders to the chief of staff to launch an attack on Kurmuk to capture, and the objective fell 4 days later.

These are the facts of the situation in Blue Nile Province. The SPLA will continue to refrain from hostilities and to seek a peaceful settlement, but any provocation by Brig 'Umar al-Bashir will be met with an iron-fisted blow as in the case of Kurmuk.

The spokesman dismissed Khartoum's claims of a tactical withdrawal and foreign intervention as lies, and as old as [former President] Al-Numayri's time.

'Umar al-Bashir's army knows that the SPLA had captured before BM30 multiple rocket launchers, 122 mm howitzer, 76 mm and 100 mm artillery field gun, tanks, and vehicles in places like Nasir, Kurmuk One, Kapoeta, Torit, and Bor.

As to the use of foreign experts, this is completely false and without any foundation. It is a lie that has been pathetically sung by all previous governments in Khartoum. Comrades, William Nyan Bany, Gilario Modi Horinyang, and Joseph Kuol Amum, are Sudanese known in the Sudanese Army, and the artillery they used is Sudanese, captured in various engagements in the past.

When we use the heavy artillery and rockets they have now left in Kurmuk against Damazin, Sinjah, or Sennar, the junta will again cry foreign intervention. This is just crying over spilt milk.

The official spokesman of the SPLA concluded that although Kurmuk fell due to 'Umar al-Bashir's provocations, the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA continues to follow the path of dialogue and a peaceful solution to the Sudanese war and its problem.

However, the problem is that unfortunately there is nobody to talk with in Khartoum. The movement had reached an advanced stage in peace talks with the former government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi when 'Umar al-Bashir took over. In fact he took over only 4 days before we were going to meet on 4 July to implement the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party]-SPLA peace agreement, and to complete preparations for convening the national constitutional conference that we had agreed to hold on 18 September.

Umar al-Bashir actually took over to preempt the 4 July meeting, and to halt the peace proces on behalf of the National Islamic Front. He admitted this in his last press conference, when he said that the SPLA was going to dictate terms that he called the four points on the government of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on 4 July, and that his

had to be stopped [sentence as heard]. After he took over 'Umar al-Bashir has been too busy uniting the so-called internal front, rather than talking with the movement.

What steps did 'Umar al-Bashir take [word indistinct]? The answer is: nothing, absolutely nothing. It is necessary to expose the absurdity of what the junta has been trying to do. The following has to be noted:

(A) On 18 August the junta sent an 11-man delegation to Addis Ababa to talk with the movement. The talks lasted only 2 days when the junta abruptly returned to Khartoum.

(B) On return to Khartoum, the junta immediately set up their own peace talks, the so-called National Dialogue Conference, headed by the same Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah who had headed the junta's delegation to the Addis Ababa talks.

Something is obviously fishy here. We had never agreed in Addis Ababa to this course of action. Like schoolchildren carried away by the emotions of youth, the junta thought they could cheat history. The chief trick here is that the junta was trying to substitute the long-awaited national constitutional conference with their own conference, but this is absurd.

How could the junta hope to bring about peace by conducting peace talks with itself, excluding the SPLM-SPLA? It should be obvious to anyone that it takes the warring sides to negotiate peace and end the war.

More absurd still is 'Umar al-Bashir's invitation to the movement to attend his national peace dialogue conference in Khartoum, and until today 'Umar al-Bashir still entertains the illusion that the movement will go to him in Khartoum for peace talks under his security guarantee. Even a child should know that this is absurd and rubbish.

'Umar al-Bashir's peace efforts, in summary, have consisted of 2 days of talks in Addis Ababa on 19 and 20 August this year, the abrupt abandonment of those talks, the setting up of a one-sided so-called national peace conference that deliberately excluded the SPLA, and a meaningless amnesty and a unilateral cease-fire which 'Umar himself broke at Surkum.

From these facts it is clear that nobody is in the right frame of mind in Khartoum to talk peace. The movement here reiterates and assures the Sudanese people that despite Kurmuk we are committed as ever to peace.

If 'Umar al-Bashir's junta responds to the SPLM-SPLA peace initiative, and they request to talk with us tomorrow in a neutral and agreed venue, we assure the Sudanese people that the movement is ready, but if 'Umar al-Bashir chooses the path of war, as he did when his forces attacked SPLA positions in Surkum on 16 October 1989, the SPLA is also ready to retaliate in kind, and [word indistinct] as we did in Kurmuk.

SPLA Claims 'Victory'

AB3010143289 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Nairobi, Oct 30 (AFP)—Sudanese rebels have taken the strategic town of Kurmuk close to the Ethiopian border after four days of combat with Sudanese Government forces, rebel radio, monitored here, said Monday.

The claim of victory by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) follows an announcement in Khartoum Sunday that government forces had made a "strategic withdrawal" from the town.

The outbreak of fighting in the Kurmuk region, which began October 16, is the first major confrontation between rebels and government forces reported in Sudan since Gen 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir took power in Khartoum on June 30.

Government Admits 'Losing Control'

AB3010174489 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 30 Oct 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] The Sudan Government has admitted losing control of Kurmuk in Blue Nile Province. A general mobilization has been declared by the military governor of the Central Region, and the authorities are even appealing for donations. It is the first military defeat to be suffered by the ruling council since they took over in June and an accusing finger is being pointed at neighboring Ethiopia. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] In a statement released yesterday, the General Command of the Army said that government troops had withdrawn from their positions in Kurmuk under intensive artillery and rocket attacks from across the border in Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

The Army vowed to retake Kurmuk as soon as possible. The Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar and his deputy for supplies have already rushed to the Central Region, of which Kurmuk is part, to direct operations.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Embassy in Khartoum has denied any involvement in the fall of Kurmuk. Mr (Aberra Abdi), the charge d'affaires at the Ethiopian embassy here, told me that he was astonished to hear the accusations against his government. He said that as founding member of the Organization of African Unity, Ethiopia is preserving the OAU's charters, one of which is the noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. He said that the Sudanese Government must have mistaken rockets originating from Ethiopia for missiles fired from inside the Sudan. [end recording]

Rebels in Ethiopia

EA3110140889 Khartoum SUNA in French 0925 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Oct (SUNA)—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has declared that his government has set about taking appropriate measures to face up to the security situation following the shelling of the town of Kurmuk, in the southeast of the country, by the movement commanded by the rebel, John Garang.

In an address to the economic conference, which began yesterday evening in Khartoum, Gen al-Bashir said the Armed Forces were determined to defend the country's integrity and unity.

The National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman indicated that Ethiopia had allowed the rebels to carry out military operations from its territory "just when the peace delegation was preparing to go to Addis Ababa in order to meet Garang's movement." He also maintained that foreign military experts were involved in the rebel operations.

Ethiopia Backing SPLA

EA3110141089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Oct (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, yesterday accused the Ethiopian Government of allowing the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] outlaws to launch their attacks against the Sudanese bordering town of Kurmuk from the Ethiopian territories.

Gen al-Bashir, addressing the opening session of the economic conference for national salvation, said that the Ethiopians have allowed the outlaws to use their territories as a springboard for their attack at a time when a government delegation is about to leave for Addis Ababa to meet the leadership of the SPLA.

He pointed out that the Sudanese Armed Forces had staged a tactical withdrawal from its positions in Kurmuk after it had come under intensive rocket launchers' shelling. Gen al-Bashir affirmed that foreign military experts were involved in the aggression.

"We will continue to fight until every inch of our territories is liberated and until peace, security, and national unity are achieved," Gen al-Bashir vowed.

The chairman of the Revolution Command Council described the aggression against Kurmuk by the rebel SPLA as "an unjustified act that showed that the rebels and those behind them are confused following the government's move towards realising peace in Sudan."

Al-Bashir said that the revolution has started to make the necessary political, military, and diplomatic measures to contain the situation.

"We realise that peace is a long process which requires patience," Al-Bashir said, adding that the government would immediately embark on the reconstruction operations in the secure areas in the south.

Mubarak Delegation Delivers Message of Support

EA3010162489 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Oct—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, at 1015 [0815 GMT] today received the Egyptian delegation which arrived in the country this morning, led by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

Lt Gen 'Umar said after the meeting that he had briefed the delegation on developments affecting the situation. He had discussed with them Egypt's role in confronting the situation in terms of foreign relations, neighborliness, and defending peace in Sudan, in the sense that Egypt was a partner in Sudan's peace process.

Dr Wali, meanwhile, stated that the Egyptian delegation had brought a verbal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to his brother Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir supporting the situation in Sudan.

He said the message stressed that cooperation between the two countries would be strong in confronting the situation in Sudan. He said the entire Egyptian people supported the situation. He said the delegation's visit was to confirm this stance.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian delegation included Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister; Lieutenant Colonel medical Ibrahim Muhammad, the minister of presidential affairs.

Lt Gen 'Umar, meanwhile, has told the press that he was in touch with the Arab presidents and leaders to tell them of the aggression against the town of Kurmuk in the southeast of Blue Nile Province, on the joint border with Ethiopia. The fact that the attack was made by the rebels made this issue of concern to all the Arabs.

Expresses Support for Government

EA3110113989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has expressed its support for Sudan and its backing of the latter against the aggression against Kurmuk. This was expressed in a verbal message sent by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Lt Gen 'Umar met Dr Yusuf Wali, the Egyptian deputy premier and minister of agriculture and emissary of President Husni Mubarak, at his office at the General Command this morning. Dr Wali arrived in Khartoum this morning.

After the meeting, Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir said he had briefed the Egyptian delegation on developments affecting the situation in Sudan. He had also discussed with them Egypt's role in confronting the current situation, with particular reference to foreign relations, and contacts with neighboring states, inasmuch as Egypt is a partner in the peace process. He had also discussed with the delegation agricultural cooperation.

Dr Yusuf Wali, emissary of President Husni Mubarak, stressed the Egyptian Government's and people's support and backing in confronting the aggression against Kurmuk. He stressed that the cooperation between the two countries would be strong in confronting the situation.

The RCC chairman also had telephone conversations today with a number of Arab leaders and presidents, during which he briefed them on the aggression against Kurmuk. Lt Gen 'Umar said that what happened in Sudan was of concern to all the Arabs.

Received by Al-Bashir

NC3010161489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Today in the Armed Forces general headquarters, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Commamd Council, received Dr Yusuf Wali, who is deputy prime minister, agriculture, and land reclamation minister, and an envoy of President Husni Mubarak. Also attending the 1-hour meeting were Staff Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, interior minister; 'Ali Sahlul, foreign minister; Al-Tayyib Ahmad Ibrahim, minister for the Presidency; Taqiy-al-Din al-Shirbini, the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum; and the members of the delgation accompanying Minister Wali.

Following the meeting, Dr Wali said that he conveyed the support of President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for the Sudanese leaders, given that Egypt and Sudan are fraternal countries. He said that the forthcoming stage will witness close and strong cooperation between Egypt and Sudan in all fields.

Lt Gen al-Bashir said that the Egyptian delegation's visit is a normal one from brothers who are our partners in our fate. He said that the visit's main goal is to boost the peace process in southern Sudan. He pointed out that Egypt is Sudan's partner in the peace process in southern Sudan. He said that among other things the talks dealt with bilateral cooperation, particularly in agriculture and cultivation of wheat and oil-bearing seeds. He noted that he contacted a number of African Arab heads of state to explain the situation in Sudan because it concerns the African Arab countries.

Al-Bashir Chairs Council of Ministers Session

EA2910200589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary meeeting this morning, chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and prime minister.

The Council listened to a report from Mr Peter Orath Ador, minister of relief and migrant affairs, on Sudan's participation in the meetings of the 40th session of the assistance program of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees held recently in Geneva.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers passed the draft bill of the diplomatic and consular (?corps) after making some amendments.

The Council of Ministers will hold a meeting next Sunday to review the performance of the Equatoria regional government. A report will be presented by the military governor of the region, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Allison Magaya.

President's 2-Day Visit to YAR Scheduled

EA3010172189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Oct—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, will (?on) Wednesday pay a 2-day visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], during which he will hold consultations with President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih and senior YAR officials on comprehensively strengthening bilateral relations.

Arab Lawyers Report New Arrests in Sudan

LD3110100189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0855 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 31 (KUNA)—The Arab Bar Association expressed anxiety on developments in Sudan following the overthrow of the democratic government last time by a military coup.

An authoritative source said that information received by the association's secretariat general after a recent visit to Sudan confirmed that the Sudanese Salvation Council's leadership gave priorities to the regime's security at the expense of the Sudanese human rights.

The information revealed that the regime was looking forward to change the "trade unions map" through dissolving and arresting a number of trade unionists. The regime was also endeavouring to control the judiciary which was against illegal detention of opponents.

The bar had reported 65 new arrests including politicians, university teachers, doctors, engineers, army and police officers.

The source said the international bar association had sent a message to the head of military junta in Sudan Gen 'Umar al-Bashir demanding respect of human rights, release of political detainees and the return to work of employees arbitrarily sacked by the new government.

Anyanya II Urges Garang To Negotiate

EA2610120889 Khartoum SUNA in French 1620 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—The Anyanya II Movement, (a brotherly armed movement to the Armed Forces) has confirmed its support for the recommendations [words indistinct] proceedings in Khartoum.

In a communique released in Khartoum on Wednesday, the Command of the Anyanya II Movement urged Garang's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] to (?launch) dialogue with the leadership of the national revolution in order to find a solution to the problem of the southern Sudan. The movement also confirmed that the federal system was the (?best).

Discontent in 'Inspector General of Police' Noted

AB2610221789 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 26 Oct 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Well, problems are apparently piling up for Sudan's military government. In spite of the informal cease-fire, heavy fighting has flared up again in the south between government forces and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Full-scale peace talks have yet to take place, and now it seems the military has been falling out apparently with the police with reports of sackings of top officials from Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Yesterday, the ruling military council dismissed the Inspector General [as heard] of Police ('Uthman al-Shafiq). No reasons were given. On the same day, the council promoted a little known police brigadier to the rank of lieutenant general [as heard] and appointed him in Al-Shafiq's place. There were later reports that all major generals and some brigadiers in the police force had also been fired. However, there was no official confirmation of such reports. The dismissal of the police chief came a few days after a group calling itself the Association of Police Force issued a clandestine memorandum which was very critical of the army, which it accused of interfering in police work.

The association, which is thought to be a sort of professional trade union, lamented what it called the police's complete loss of rights and respect. It said the police not only lacked all kinds of facilities but were maltreated by the (?Army) at checkpoints. This went on throughout Khartoum up to June the 30th this year when Major General Al-Bashir seized power. The 5 and 1/2-hour military curfew is also in force in the capital. The police memorandum said that the police are normally stationed at dead checkpoints where there is little action whereas the Army is posted at strategic places like bridges. The memorandum also had said that recently a police officer was shot at in Omdurman by a military man but neither was there an investigation nor was the culprit questioned. It said the police are overworked but were neither rewarded nor given facilities. We live in houses, they say, more suitable for mosquitoes and flies.

The association then listed some nine demands which included the halting of inteference by the military in the running of general security and improved pay and benefits. The association called for an end to arbitrary dismissals of policemen and the strengthening of the police force. About 400 police officers are known to have been dismissed since 30 June. Police sources said that if their list of demands was not met, they would submit mass resignations. The military government's response appears to include more sackings. [end recording]

Operation Lifeline Transfers Food to South

EA2910195289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1145 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA)—Food supplies transported to the south within the first phase of UN Operation Lifeline Sudan will suffice the region for the upcoming six months, the relief and displaced peoples' affairs minister said.

Rev Peter Orath told the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI Sunday that the second phase of Lifeline Sudan, which is due to start early next year, will concentrate on developmental and rehabilitation projects, to be financed by donor countries and organisations.

The minister said some 3,000 displaced families have been moved to productive areas in central region.

An estimated one million displaced persons are currently in and around the national capital Khartoum, due to the security situation in the south of the country.

Bahrain

Daniel Ortega's Plane Reportedly Involved in Accident

JN2910183889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 27 Oct 89 pp 1, 23

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Informed Gulf sources have said that the plane of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had a serious accident while landing at Bahrain airport last week. The accident could have cost the president, his companions, and the crew their lives.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, these sources said that a Boeing airplane parked on the tarmac in Manama Airport moved unexpectedly while the GDR Interflug plane carrying the Nicaraguan president from Kuwait was landing on the runway. Some of these informed sources asserted that the incident is shrouded in mystery.

The sources confirmed that the GDR plane was seriously damaged by the crash, particularly in one of its wings, and this made it unsuitable to carry Ortega from Manama to Berlin. The Nicaraguan president had to ask for a replacement plane from the GDR authorities. However, the Bahraini amir, Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, offered his private plane to Ortega so that he could travel to Berlin.

The sources pointed out that Ortega's visit to the region aimed to raise $250 million to purchase urgent foodstuffs and medical supplies for the Nicaraguan people in view of the hard circumstances caused by the war and the conflicts in that country.

Qatar offered $4 million while Bahrain promised to extend aid after the Nicaraguan elections results are known. Kuwait promised to study the matter and make a decision in the next few days.

'Source' Denies Report

JN3010160589 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 29 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] An official Bahraini source has denied the report published by AL-WATAN on 27 October, issue No 5378, under the headline "Serious Accident in Manama Airport."

The source stressed that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation were not exposed to any danger while in Bahrain.

Oman

UK Defense Ministry Official Arrives on Visit

JN3110074089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Muscat, 30 Oct (WAKH)—UK Minister of State for Defense Tom King and his delegation arrived in Muscat this evening on an official visit of several days to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, which comes in response to an invitation from Fahar Ibn-Taymur, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, the UK official will hold talks with Omani officials on bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discuss Al-Ta'if Talks

LD3010205589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a Council of Minister's session this afternoon in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the session, Information Minister Mr Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA:

At the beginning of today's session, the council listened to the custodian of the two holy mosques give a comprehensive political analysis of new events in the Arab region. He also referred to the contacts and consultations which he had with his two brother members of the Supreme Tripartite Arab Committee, His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, to assess the positive results reached by the Lebanese deputies at the end of their continuous meetings and concentrated discussions in al-Ta'if.

The king described this historic Lebanese event as one of the most important and greatest achievements by the Lebanese since their independence. It is a balanced objective formula for the Lebanese accord and a solid base for peaceful coexistence among all Lebanese sects. This is what all sincere Lebanese leaders have been looking for in the past years.

On his view of the future of Lebanon, he said:

"In my opinion, the deputies representing all the Lebanese people declared their commitment to take part in the peace march, which started in al-Ta'if, toward building a new Lebanon on the bases of understanding, cooperation, and solidarity among all Lebanese, and among the various sects, without any retreat from or complacency in implementing what was agreed on and in accordance with the declarations of the speaker of the House of Deputies in the National Accord document, which stemmed from the resolutions of the Casablanca summit."

He added: "I only hope that the wise and reasonable Lebanese leaders will be able to contain some of the marginal disagreements which might affect the atmosphere that prevailed during al-Ta'if discussions. I would like to repeat again that the Lebanese people have found their way toward success and have taken the first step. This has taken place through God's guidance and through the support of all quarters which contributed to the achievement of this national accord." [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Addresses AAPSO Committee

JN3110101889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that the motive behind creativity in the military battlefield is to demonstrate power not in the conventional sense, but in the sense of the ability to change people's conditions for the better and to resist anything that deprives them of the opportunity to cherish aspirations and rise to higher levels of glory.

Addressing the chairman of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] and the representatives of Arab solidarity committees following the conclusion of their conference in Baghdad, the president said: By the accomplishments we made after the cease-fire in all walks of life—industry and the reconstruction of al-Faw and al-Basrah—we wanted to express in a mature way our comprehensive view of the humanitarian role which must be assumed by Arabs everywhere. [passage omitted]

The following is text of the president's address:

Brothers, I find it difficult to choose the right words to express my feelings here while I am overwhelmed by your noble and sincere sentiments. However, I will attempt to express these feelings in a few fraternal words.

Before you, the Iraqis also overwhelmed us with their loyalty, noble feelings, and generous sacrifices, and now the Arabs are overwhelming us with their affection, noble feelings, and expressions of solidarity with their Iraqi people and their country, Iraq. By doing so, they make us wonder how we can do more and perform better. So all we can do is pray to God almighty to enable us to do what is better in the interest of our Arab nation, Iraqis, and the whole of mankind.

As you know, those who led the the war and peace march, especially the vanguard, and I mean by that the political leadership, were not graduates of military academies. Of course, the military commanders studied in military colleges, institutes, and academies. Therefore, the motive behind creativity in the military battlefield was not to demonstrate power in the traditional sense, but in the sense of the ability to change people's conditions for the better and to resist anything which deprives them of the opportunity to cherish aspirations and to rise to higher levels of glory, where there is more dignity, stability, and prosperity, and also more opportunities to play our pan-Arab, national, and humanitarian role from an influential position. Thus, the nation will assume the national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role of which it has been deprived for so long. [passage omitted]

We say that God almighty has chosen the Arab nation to lead and to spread His missions among the whole of mankind. The reference in the Holy Koran concerning the Arab people's geography, history, and social life points to this greater and broader leadership role which goes beyond the Arab world. This also proves that the Arabs have priority right to leadership. Therefore, we say that the Arabs have an usual responsibility which they must be ready to assume, not just for their nation's sake, but for the sake of the whole of mankind. We are not calling on the Arabs to invade, expand, or persecute anyone, but to serve mankind from a leading position that is influential, intellectual, and practical.

Through these meanings, we understand in one way or another the great responsibility awaiting you brothers in your organizations, because the Arab nation is situated in Asia and Africa.

Upholding these meanings at all times explains our victory on all battlefronts as well as the unmatched reconstruction work which has been accomplished during and after the war. By the accomplishments we made after the cease-fire in all walks of life—industry and the reconstruction of al-Faw and al-Basrah—we wanted to express in a mature way our comprehensive view of the humanitarian role which the Arabs must assume wherever they may be, in Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Syria, Libya, and elsewhere.

This understanding, and the luck that all of us in Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or Syria may have in meticulously and faithfully implementing it in our various fields of action would give a new and unusual dose of morale to the strugglers in the occupied territories in Palestine, so that they may confront the occupation and the invasion now with a spirit permeated with an optimism that is based on the future. We cannot liberate ourselves from persecution unless we liberate our minds and actions from it. Likewise, we cannot liberate ourselves from the blackmail of others unless we liberate ourselves from such a thing from within. We cannot free ourselves of caution and the fear of others unless our minds, actions, behavior, and ideas are free of such notions. From this premise, the victory that took place here is not only a victory for the Arabs and a victory for mankind in general, in accordance with what we have said, but it is also a victory for the Iranians inasmuch as this victory means to the Arabs.

The Arabs need victory over the aggressors for known reasons. But, as aggressors, the Iranians are not in need of victory. On the contrary, they need to follow a course that removes them from scoring victory while being the aggressors. This is so because their history is replete with aggressions against their neighbors and attempts to invade others on unjust bases. The Arab nation had no other choice but to score victory because it historically needs victory in terms of its comprehensive humanitarian concept and not in terms of a restricted pan-Arab and chauvinistic national concept. It has also been a victory for the Iranians as a people. Had the opposite

taken place, the Iranians would have departed from the course of the resurgent life and would have been placed outside the rules and laws that govern this age. They would have foundered in a state of darkness that will be gloomier than the one in which they are foundering. For this reason, we had no other choice but to score victory on them, and they had no other alternative but to have victory scored against them. That's why during all the circumstances and the stages since the first day, we have been calling for peace and aspiring for it.

Officials in Iran were seeking war, battle, destruction, and the murder of the POW's. They even continue to hold the POW's until today while they talk about Islam and ignore the laws of Islam and human rights. They still refuse to give names of the POW's to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Until now, there are around 20,000 Iraqi POW's whose names were not given to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and they deny their existence. We have information to the effect that some of them were killed in captivity, and not in battles.

This is the major difference between the two cases. When the difference is as such between the two cases, it is in the interest of the Iranian citizen to struggle to achieve victory and move to the resurgent state; the humanitarian state that searches for human values and meanings in the laws of this contemporary age and does not bypass these laws or apply the law of the jungle. [passage omitted]

Disagreements and differences, such as differences of opinion within any society, are not always an unhealthy sign. But when people find that the road to a better life is blocked to them, they try to express these differences by other means. Iran will face such an eventuality if it does not follow the sound course toward life. If they do so, then we welcome them. [passage omitted]

Representative of Michel 'Awn Ends Visit

JN2710152289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)—Edgar Ma'luf, the representative of Lebanese President [title as received] Michel 'Awn, left Baghdad today after participating in Iraq's celebrations marking the rebuilding of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory.

During his visit, Edgar Ma'luf took part in the meetings of the fifth session of Arab transportation ministers which concluded recently in Baghdad.

UK Position on Journalist Apprehension Criticized

JN2310094389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Britain should deal with the Arab states with full respect and on an equal footing with all world states.

In an editorial today, the newspaper affirms that Britain should not imagine that it alone has the right to implement its laws on those who act against it on its soil. It says that other states, including the Arab states, have the same right and that he who violates the laws of these states must suffer just punishment.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Iraq rejects, denounces, and even ridicules any pressure on it by anyone to show leniency in this regard. Those who know Iraq and dealt with it anytime should understand this well and take it into consideration.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: On 15 September 1989 the competent Iraqi authorities apprehended Farzat Riyadi Bazovt [name as received], correspondent for the British paper THE OBSERVER, who is of Iranian origin and from the Iranian city of Masjed-e Soleyman. He graduated from Britain's Sheffield University, was granted asylum in Britain, given a chance to work with the abovementioned paper, and granted a British passport.

The paper adds: He was apprehended for carrying out acts of espionage against Iraq for hostile intelligence services in cooperation with British nurse Daphne Parish who works at the Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital. Bazovt visited Iraq six times in April, May, July, and December 1988 and in February and September 1989.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: During his last visit, Bazovt went secretly to a sensitive military area to collect information and take pictures of the area, where he was apprehended. All this affirms that the measures taken by the Iraqi authorities are those adopted by the authorities of any independent state that is concerned about its national security and takes pride in its independence and sovereignty over its territory.

Paper Condemns UK 'Lack of Respect'

JN2710161389 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Oct 89 p 2

["Light" column: "Britain and the Sun" signed by "Al-Kashif"]

[Text] When it was an empire on which the sun never set, Britain used to define the rights of others who were under its occupation. The British Ministry of Colonies had the first and last say concerning the peoples of the colonies and their rights.

The sun set on the British Empire; however, it never rose over the ruling British political mentality. British policy remains the captive of the Ministry of Colonies' attitudes. Every once in a while, a new affirmation crops up to confirm the kind of British political thinking that exists toward others.

The British press now promotes the British Government's positions and protests over Iraq's settling its accounts with the Iranian Farzat Dabati Bazovt [name as published] who carries a British passport for doing spy work outside the scope of the journalism behind which

he hides. Along with a British nurse named Daphne Anne Parish, he visited a sensitive Iraqi military zone to gather information and take photographs.

In accordance with the attitudes inherited from the Ministry of Colonies, Iraq's settling of accounts with these two people is considered an illegitimate act.

How is that?

How come the British Government has the right to try the violators of its laws on its territory and Iraq does not have the same right?

Logically, we do not have an answer. And none of the people who adhere to law, traditions, and common sense know it either.

Until the sun rises on the mentality inherited from the Ministry of Colonies, forgetting the big facts will continue among some British circles who forget that Iraq is now an independent state holding firmly to its sovereignty and rights; they forget the principles of respect for the sovereignty of Third World countries, especially Arab countries.

For decades, Britain's spies have governed many countries. To date, Britain has bestowed on mankind racial entities such as Tel Aviv and Pretoria. These entities praise the glory of Britain, which goes without saying. Britain's lack of respect for many nations that hold fast to their full rights also goes without saying.

Civil Defense Officials Meet in Moscow

JN2410104289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Moscow, 24 Oct (INA)—Army General Vladimir Govorov, deputy defense minister for civil defense, met here yesterday with 'Imad Shabib, director general of civil defense in Iraq, who is currently visiting the Soviet Union.

The meeting dealt with relations of cooperation between civil defense apparatuses in both countries and means of bolstering these relations.

Transport Minister Receives Soviet Official

JN3110074289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah today received Alkonay Falaleyev, under secretary of the Soviet Ministry of Transport [name and title as received].

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting cooperation between the two countries in all fields of transport. The Iraqi minister reviewed development in the transport sector in Iraq.

Trade Minister Meets Jordanian, SRV Ministers

JN3010205389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih received this evening Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad 'Innab and Vietnamese Building Minister Ngo Xuan Loc. During the meeting, they discussed areas of economic and trade cooperation between Iraq on one hand and Jordan and Vietnam on the other. The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry under secretary, and the Jordanian and Vietnamese ambassadors in Baghdad.

Shamir Calls Plan 'Only Way To Promote Peace'

TA3010134089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel is in the midst of a complicated and delicate process, and should be allowed to promote the peace process together with the Palestinians in the territories and with the Egyptians. Shamir was addressing a group of Belgian ministers and parliament members currently visiting Israel.

Shamir also said that the only way to promote peace in our region—which suffers from a surplus of weaponry, in which the Arabs spend $40 billion annually on means of destruction, as he put it—is the Israeli peace initiative.

Shamir's Trip to Washington 'Not in Doubt'

TA3010162389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Gil Tamari in Jerusalem on 30 October]

[Text] Israel is still waiting for the U.S. response to the changes it has asked to be made in the Baker initiative. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expresses optimism and promises: The minute we receive a reply we will bring it up for discussion in the Inner Cabinet.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I cannot say anything in Baker's name, but I suppose that we will reach some accord.

[Tamari] Referring to the rumors that he is planning to cancel his U.S. trip, the prime minister says: Right now I am not considering it. So what about a meeting with President Bush?

[Shamir] A firm date has not been fixed yet.

[Tamari] Does that mean that there is no doubt that the meeting will be held?

[Shamir] I suppose so. [end recording]

To repeat, the prime minister's trip to the United States is not in doubt at this moment.

The prime minister does not regard as important the threats made by U.S. senators that if the NBC Television reports about Israeli-South African nuclear cooperation are correct, the United States would have to reconsider its foreign aid policy to Israel.

[Begin Shamir recording] I believe that these reports are a completely hypothetical thesis. The reports will not be verified; therefore, everything else does not matter. [end recording]

Arens Hopes U.S. Agreement 'Getting Close'

TA3010115389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has not yet received Secretary of State James Baker's reply to his message on the five-point Baker plan for negotiations between an Israeli and Palestinian delegation. However, Arens this morning told a British delegation from the Jewish National Fund that Israel may be close to agreement with the United States. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The foreign minister made no specific reference to the Baker plan nor to the latest concessions which the U.S. secretary of state is reported to have offered. Arens said Egypt's contribution to the promotion of the Israeli peace initiative has been modest because Cairo insists on consulting with the PLO. There is a concerted effort to induce Israel to negotiate with the PLO on the establishment of a Palestinian state, Arens said, an attempt to bypass the Israeli initiative and dispense with the elections in the territories. That is why the current diplomatic contacts are not as simple as might be expected.

[Arens] And so it has taken 3 weeks of letters and telephone calls, trying to arrive at an agreed formulation. We're not there yet. I hope we will be. I think we may be getting close.

[Katzenell] Foreign Minister Arens made no mention of the latest allegations of cooperation between Israel and South Africa in the area of nuclear weapons. [end recording]

Spanish Daily Interviews Minister Ezer Weizman

PM3010112689 Madrid ABC in Spanish 22 Oct 89 p 38

[Interview with Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman by Belen Sanchez-Alba; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—[Passage omitted] [Sanchez-Alba] If 'Arafat, who enjoys the EEC's support, were to come to Madrid during the period of your own visit to Spain, would you be willing to meet with him?

[Weizman] Don't try to catch me. Look, I have always said what I think—that sooner or later we will sit down and talk with PLO representatives. But until now, the Israeli Government's decision has been not to negotiate with that organization and hold elections in the territories. In May this year I voted against this elections proposal because I did not consider it the right way to advance the peace process. However, since the plan was accepted by the majority, including my own party members, I am willing to cooperate to enable the elections to take place in the West Bank and Gaza. If I were 'Arafat, I would accept the elections proposal.

[Sanchez-Alba] What next?

[Weizman] We Israelis have to live with the Palestinians and 150 million Arabs in the Middle East. Despite the major first step constituted by the establishment of relations with Egypt in 1979, it is an arduous process and progress is plagued by difficulties.

[Sanchez-Alba] Why?

[Weizman] It is difficult because there are psychological barriers that must be demolished. Not only for security reasons.

[Sanchez-Alba] What are the Israeli people afraid of?

[Weizman] The first thing the Israelis are afraid of is their own history, and this is not good. It is necessary to look at the future. Undoubtedly the Jewish people's history has been very difficult—in Spain, too. But for the past 40 years we have had a strong state, a powerful army, and high scientific standards. The point is that leaders have failed to penetrate the Israeli people's awareness to make them realize that the State of Israel is situated in an Arab region and that the world is now moving in the direction of dialogue, not confrontation. And Israel, closed in on itself, fails to see what is happening in the world in this regard. [passage omitted]

[Sanchez-Alba] You have never spoken in terms of a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

[Weizman] Who said I should say what the solution should be?

[Sanchez-Alba] Do you believe that a Palestinian state is the solution?

[Weizman] I am not sure. I see the solution in general terms. First, Israel cannot continue to control the occupied Arab territories, particularly the Gaza Strip. As for the West Bank, certain changes will have to be made to the armistice boundaries set at the end of the first Arab-Israeli war in 1949 in the accords signed on the Island of Rhodes. [Weizman ends]

The science minister said that when the time comes to talk with Palestinian representatives he will tell them: "First, I propose an open-door policy on both sides and a joint economic policy such as that of the EEC."

[Sanchez-Alba] Would each side have its own national symbols?

[Weizman] Of course, each with its own symbols, identity cards, religion, and traditions. When these economic and security accords—including a treaty with Jordan, which is the Arab country that has the longest borders with Israel—are reached among the Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians, and Egyptians, we will decide what to call this entity.

[Sanchez-Alba] Do you prefer Egyptian mediation between the Palestinians and Israelis to the good offices of the United States?

[Weizman] First, I prefer Egypt because we live with them. I can reach Cairo in 40 minutes, whereas it takes me 11 hours to get to Washington. Second, I want Egypt as a partner, not a mediator, because this country was brave enough to sign a peace treaty with us, standing up to the entire Arab world and paying for it with the death of President Anwar al-Sadat. [passage omitted]

Labor's Bar'am Considers Bid for Top Party Post

TA3010164889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Menahem Shizaf]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, former Labor Party secretary general, is forming his own camp in the party and is considering running for its leadership in the party's next convention. Knesset Member Bar'am has been holding talks with party activists recently. In these discussions Bar'am has said that he does not rule out the possibility of competing for the party's leadership. In the past, Bar'am declared that he would no longer support Shim'on Peres as the party's candidate for prime minister, but has so far refrained from expressing his support for Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Bar'am told his associates that he would support Rabin under two conditions: if it becomes apparent that Rabin could garner large public support; and if he presents a clear peace plan that tops his agenda. In these discussions Bar'am made it clear that under certain circumstances he could see himself as a candidate for the party's leadership. [passage omitted]

Bar'am added: "If the next elections are held as scheduled, it is definitely possible that I would run for the leadership. If, however, the Labor Party should decide to quit the government now and early elections are held, and if Rabin and Peres compete, no one but them would run for the party's leadership."

Mitterrand Invites Shamir to Paris for EC Talks

TA2910114089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Yo'av Tocker]

[Text] Paris—It has already been agreed that President Francois Mitterrand will send an official invitation to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to come on a working visit to Paris. The date for the visit will be 21 November. During the Paris stay, the prime minister is also likely to meet with the "troika" of European foreign ministers. Shamir intends to hold the talks on his way back from Washington.

Because of the skepticism aroused over the date for the Shamir-Baker meeting and following Mitterrand's latest political speech—in which he sharply attacked Israeli oppression in the territories and announced the initiative to convene as early as possible a European-Arab

conference to discuss the Middle East situation—doubts arose over the implementation of Shamir's visit to Paris.

The invitation and the possible political usefulness of Shamir's visit is the subject of contradictory evaluations in Jerusalem and Paris. Since President Mitterrand became the first senior western leader to officially invite Yasir 'Arafat for talks (in May), a coolness in Franco-Israeli relations and a sharp increase in the influence of the Arab lobby among the French ruling circles have been felt.

Against this background, Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer requested and received from the French Government an official invitation for Shamir in order to stop the deterioration in bilateral relations.

At the same time, the dispute in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem continues between those who support the visit —"in order to have Israel's voice heard in decisionmaking centers in Europe and in order not to burn bridges,"—and those who reject it for fear that it would "legitimize after the fact" the 'Arafat-Mitterrand talks. Those who oppose the visit claim that the French are pushing the EC (and the United States) to incorporate the PLO into peace talks, and that a Shamir visit to Paris— which would strengthen the position of the acting EC president—might make it harder for Israeli efforts to put a brake on this development.

The agreement in principle on the visit on 21 November was finally achieved after considering various dates. An official French announcement is expected in the coming days.

A Shamir meeting with the three European foreign ministers—who have been given the task of finding out the positions of the parties in the Middle East (the ministers of France, Spain, and Ireland, who are due to confer next month on this topic with 'Arafat and President Mubarak)—was also due to take place during Shamir's visit to Paris. The uncertainty over the Bush-Shamir summit and Mitterrand's initiative to push the EC to take a more active role in the Middle East throws a shadow over the visit. Mitterrand's speech last week to the European Parliament in Strasbourg revealed his intention to incorporate what he called "a coordinated European-Arabic presence" in the process. The evaluation in Paris is that it will also include consultations and coordination with Moscow.

French official spokesmen last night claimed that they know nothing so far about a scheduled visit by Shamir to Paris and hinted that the matter might be raised by Jacques Attali, the French president's special adviser, in talks to be held in Israel in the next few days. French and Israeli sources, however, indicate that most of the details linked to the prime minister's planned talks in Paris have already been decided in principle.

Request for Canadian Nuclear Reactor Confirmed

TA3110095689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Nomi Morris and Larry Derfner]

[Text] Toronto—Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has asked Canada to sell Israel a $1.1 billion nuclear reactor, according to news reports here which prompted concern from local officials.

The reports were confirmed yesterday by the Energy Ministry in Israel.

Shahal made the request for the CANDU heavy-water reactor at an international conference in Montreal last month. Canada's Energy Minister Jake Epp wrote to Shahal telling him he would have to contact the Department of External Affairs before talks on the matter could proceed.

Federal officials have already expressed concern about how Israel might use the reactor, which is intended for electrical generating projects. They predicted the sale would provoke anger in Arab countries.

Before Canada would hand over the reactor, the Department of External Affairs and the Atomic Energy Control Board would demand that Israel sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or at least a bilateral agreement with Canada on the use of nuclear techonology.

Even after the sale, Israel would be required to submit to regular follow-up checks by Canada to ensure the reactor was not used for military purposes.

Larry Derfner adds:

The Canadian nuclear facility would be used solely for producing electricity, Energy Ministry spokeman Elihu Ben-On said last night, noting that a number of countries use nuclear power for energy but do not make nuclear weapons.

During his meeting with Epp at the World Energy Conference in Montreal in the middle of last month, Shahal agreed to allow Canadian experts to inspect the construction of the facility in Israel.

Agridev Opens Agriculture Office in Moscow

TA2910114989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p A10

[Report by Mordekhay Elkan]

[Text] A branch of Agridev, the Israeli government company dealing with the sale of agricultural technology and know-how, was opened in Moscow this month by a representative of the Israeli company. This was reported last night by 'Amram Olmert, the director general of the company. The Israeli branch will be in charge of implementing accords agreed upon in August with a Soviet Academy of Sciences delegation, which had been visiting Israel.

'Amram Olmert reported that in view of the agreement with the Soviets, preparations have begun on the export, at the first stage, of 220 mature cows, a modern milking machine, and equipment for the production of concentrated food for the fattening of cattle.

A joint project will soon begin to grow poultry for kosher slaughter. This will also include the establishment of a kosher slaughter house for poultry to service Jewish tourists visiting the Soviet Union. This project will be set up in the Istra [name as published] government farm, which is run by the Soviet Academy of Sciences. It is located approximately 40 km from Moscow.

Trade Deficit With FRG To Be Discussed

TA2910124789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p B2

[Report by Uri Ginosar]

[Text] The Israeli trade deficit vis-a-vis the FRG has reached $1 billion (excluding diamonds). The trade deficit with the FRG constitutes 27 percent of Israel's overall trade deficit in terms of commerce with the EEC, and approximately 33 percent of Israel's general trade deficit with world countries.

During the first half of 1989, a 1.3-percent drop was registered in the deficit compared to the same period last year, whereas the general trade deficit with the EEC saw an 8.4-percent drop.

These issues will be discussed with German Tourism Minister Ludolf von Wartenberg [name and title as published] in the course of his visit here this week. Von Wartenberg is to begin serving as director general of the German Manufacturers Association soon. He is scheduled to meet with a delegation of industrialists today to discuss industrial cooperation with the FRG, the Arab boycott, the establishment of a fund to promote research and development, and to exchange views about the planned unification of the EC in 1992.

Relations With India May Promote Peace Process

TA2710132989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister says that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and India might contribute to peace with Arab countries. This is because India's status in the Arab world remains that of a most respected, popular, and important power. Therefore, the establishment of relations with New Delhi might promote the peace initiative.

Mr Shamir made these remarks to Professor (Sondhi), head of the Nehru University International Relations Center in New Delhi. The guest replied that India and Israel have numerous interests in common. Mr Shamir added that although Israel is a small country, it can assist the Indians with know-how and experience in many spheres.

Bomb-Laden Boat Explodes, Killing 'Terrorist'

TA3110055689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded and a terrorist was killed in a clash between a Navy ship and a terrorist boat north of Rosh Haniqra. The vessel, a fishing boat, is believed to have been loaded with explosives designed to explode next to the Navy ship in a suicide act at sea. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The incident occurred off the shore of al-Rashidiyah in south Lebanon. At 1900 last night, a Dvora-class ship was on a routine patrol off the Lebanese shore, north of Rosh Haniqra. The Dvora spotted the fishing boat, which was sailing in an area where fishing is forbidden. The Dvora team operated in accordance with regulations. First, the boat was ordered to leave the place. When no reply was received, the Dvora approached the fishing boat with its personnel firing warning shots in the air.

When the Dvora was about 40 meters from the fishing boat, the boat exploded, slightly injuring one of the soldiers aboard the ship, who was transferred to Rambam Hospital in Haifa with an eye injury. Two other soldiers were slightly grazed and treated on the spot. The terrorist on the fishing boat was killed.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mikha Ram conducted a preliminary briefing, from which it was learned that the fishing boat was carrying at least one terrorist and that the Dvora personnel fired into the air, supporting the assumption that the vessel was an explosive-laden fishing boat set to explode along with the Navy ship. [passage omitted]

In recent years, all the terrorist organizations operating in Lebanon have developed diversified naval capability designed to allow terrorists to penetrate from the sea. Terrorist naval units are equipped with a large variety of weapons and naval instruments received mostly from Arab countries; some of them are purchased in Europe. Terrorist organizations also employ naval equipment they have devised themselves. Among other items, they have procured race boats, rubber dinghies, fishing boats, and cargo ships, as well as diving equipment and sea mines. [passage omitted]

'Two Terrorist Squads' Caught in Gaza Strip

TA2910123189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by Mikhal Qedem]

[Text] The security forces last night captured two terrorist squads consisting of 11 masked individuals in the Gaza Strip. They were caught in possession of a vast quantity of equipment and weapons. Nine of them were captured in the Jabalyah refugee camp. They were found in possession of unarmed weapons, clothes, headgear to veil their faces, and plenty of inflammatory material.

In the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza, two masked men were caught leaving their home late last night holding weapons and instigatory material.

[In another report by Oren Kohen on page 7, HADASHOT reports that "Sha'wan 'Abdallah Jabrin of Hebron was given a 12-month administrative detention sentence to be served in the Ansar-3 detention facility at Qezi'ot. He is believed to be a senior activist in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."]

Bus Attacker Convicted, Receives 16 Life Terms

TA3010123989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Report by Mikha'el Birenhack]

[Excerpt] This morning the Jerusalem District Court convicted 'Abd-al-Mahdi Ghanim from al-Nusayrat in the murders of 16 passengers aboard bus No. 405 en route to Jerusalem. He was also found guilty of attempting to murder 24 other passengers. His sentence, as prescribed by law, is 16 life sentences for each murder and 20 years imprisonment for each of the attempted murders. This is the verdict issued a while ago in Jerusalem. The terms are overlapping. [passage omitted]

Office of REUTER's Gaza Correspondent Raided

TA3010202789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The security forces in Gaza have raided the office of Taher Shriteh, the REUTER correspondent in the Gaza Strip, and confiscated notebooks, cassettes, and files. Shriteh was not in his office at the time, but relatives said a notebook containing addresses was confiscated, along with copies of his reports.

The Gaza Strip Civil Administration told our correspondent Arye Gus that routine checks were being carried out at journalists' offices, often based on prior information linking them to disturbances.

The material removed from Shriteh's office will be checked. If nothing is found, it will be returned to him. Our correspondent points out that Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, promised not long ago to help journalists in the Gaza Strip, but several have since been detained.

Paul Taylor, REUTER bureau chief in Israel, protested the raid on Shriteh's office.

IDF To Use Observation Balloons in West Bank

TA3010113389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Oct 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will soon begin an experiment designed to gather information by setting up observation points above the West Bank refugee camps with the aid of hot air balloons. Within a few days, the Armaments Development Authority [RAFAEL] will deliver the first balloon of this type that it has manufactured to the IDF in order to conduct the experiment, which will last approximately 3 months. Upon the conclusion of the experiment, the chief of staff and the generals heading the various commands will decide whether to adopt the idea and implement it throughout the territories.

The balloon is equipped with a camera that transmits a screen image to the ground in real time. The camera was developed by RAFAEL to meet IDF demands. Senior commanders explained that the idea behind the use of the "flying camera" is to reduce the friction between IDF soldiers and residents of the refugee camps to an absolute minimum. The camera mounted on the hot air balloon can alert the authorities to clusters of people organizing inside the camps, impending riots, and any other unusual occurrences, so that military forces can be swiftly sent to the site.

The hot air balloon will be integrated with a series of observation and intelligence measures the IDF is planning to implement in the West Bank. At the same time, Israel Aircraft Industries will soon supply the IDF with a small helicopter also equipped with a camera capable of transmitting an aerial photograph of the situation to the ground. The IDF hopes to integrate the use of the small pilotless helicopters with its ground operations.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 30 October in a report by 'Imanu'el Rosen on pages 1 and 2 adds that "the idea of the hot air balloons was initiated by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, who hopes to develop sophisticated and innovative methods to fight the intifadah."]

IDF Sources Deny Report

TA3110095989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Oct 89 p 12

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Official IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources yesterday denied knowing about reported plans to test a balloon equipped with surveillance equipment in the

West Bank to aid troops battling the intifada. According to the reports, the Armament Development Authority (RAFAEL) is to lend such a balloon to the IDF for a three-month trial period. The balloon would reportedly be used to monitor the activities of Palestinian agitators.

Violence, Curfews, Death Tolls in Territories

Clerics Kept From Bayt Sahur

TA2710193589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Muhammad Mahmud Zalat, 22, from Tulkarm, died at a Ramallah hospital this afternoon, having sustained wounds while falling off a roof during soldiers' pursuit of stone throwers yesterday.

In a violent incident in Bethlehem, a resident was wounded by a bullet.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports from the Gaza Strip that a gas grenade was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. There were no casualties. This is the third incident this week in which gas grenades have been thrown at soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

Several heads of Jerusalem churches who intended to go to Bayt Sahur today canceled their visit. According to them, they were denied freedom of prayer and access to holy sites. They said they intended to file an official protest. Our correspondent reports that out of concern for the visitors' safety, the IDF permitted only four of the clerics to visit Bayt Sahur. The other delegation members, as well as the accompanying reporters, were barred from the town. [passage omitted]

Gaza Neighborhood Under Curfew

TA2810094389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza this morning. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

A general strike is being staged in Tulkarm today because of the death of a Tulkarm refugee camp youth. The youth died at the Ramallah hospital after having been wounded in riots in the camp on Thursday. There were disturbances in Tulkarm this morning, and students organized protest marches.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 28 October reports that "in Gaza, a soldier was slightly injured yesterday by a stone thrown at the jeep in which he was riding. The vehicle's windscreen was smashed, and the soldier was hit by flying glass. He was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon."]

Collaboration Suspect Killed

TA2810124289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Rasmiyya al-Bana', 42, was murdered in Nabulus this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that masked youths broke into her house and murdered her with an ax and knives. Local residents say the woman was suspected of collaboration with the authorities.

Youth Killed Near Hebron

TA2810194889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Two residents of the territories were killed in today's incidents. In Nabulus, a 42-year-old woman was murdered, probably as a result of being a suspected collaborator.

In the Hebron District village of Surif, an 18-year-old youth was killed during an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] initiated activity in the village. The army is still probing the circumstances of his death.

Bayt Sahur residents today sent a wire to the U.S. President and to other world leaders, asking them to send representatives to a mass prayer for peace to be held next Sunday in the town's Latin Church.

On the Ramallah-Nabulus highway today, soldiers forced Arab passersby to erect a stone barrier. [passage omitted] The IDF spokesman reacted by saying that the act, if it had indeed taken place, was a deviation from regulations, and that the incident will be investigated and action taken.

A 10-year-old boy from the Shu'fat refugee camp in northern Jerusalem was today injured by a rubber bullet. The child is being treated at al-Maqasid Hospital, which has reported that his condition is moderate to severe. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the boy was wounded when policemen fired rubber bullets at stone-throwing youths. [passage omitted]

Strike Violence Reported

TA3010091489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Bayt Sahur—The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday allowed the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, Diodoros I, to officiate at a Sunday service here and bring a message of support to residents.

The visit followed an incident Friday in which the patriarch, along with the Latin and Armenian patriarchs, refused to enter Bayt Sahur when the army said they could only travel in one car, without their entourage. [passage omitted]

Mikhal Sela' adds:

A general strike was in effect yesterday in the territories, called by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad. In clashes with troops, 16 people were wounded, according to hospital reports. The focus of clashes in the Gaza Strip was the al-Shati' refugee camp, where 10 Palestinians were hospitalized with wounds from bullets and steel marbles. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 30 October, in a report on page 2 by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er, adds that "the curfew imposed 2 days ago on the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood" of Gaza has been lifted and that "the Civil Administration closed two schools in Rafah and Gaza 2 days ago, following reports that they were the site from which rocks were thrown at IDF soldiers."]

West Bank Man Dies of Wounds

TA3010095389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Husayn Zahran, a 25-year-old resident of the al-Fari'ah refugee camp in Samaria, died in Tel Hashomer Hospital this morning. He was mortally wounded 5 days ago. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Zahran, who had been wanted by the security forces, was about to throw a large rock at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer from close range during disturbances in the refugee camp. Soldiers shot a plastic bullet at him, and he was critically injured.

This morning, the IDF imposed a curfew on the camp, following attempts to disrupt the peace.

In Rafah, masked men attacked a local resident with knives and axes this morning, but he managed to escape.

30 Oct Incidents Noted

TA3110090389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] Jean Francois Le Pen, a reporter for the Canadian CBC television network, was shot yesterday in the course of disturbances he was covering in Gaza's Shabura neighborhood. The reporter was injured in the right thigh by a plastic bullet fired by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer. After receiving first aid from soldiers, he was evacuated to a local UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] clinic in the vehicle of a local resident.

Official military sources said last night that an IDF officer had fired a rubber bullet at the feet of rioters in the course of dispersing a stone-throwing riot in Rafah's Shabura neighborhood. The reporter, who was standing in a crowd of rioters, had not been spotted by the officer. The military sources added that the Canadian television network directors had accepted the official explanation of the incident. [passage omitted]

Yesterday at noon, a 25-year-old tourist from France was injured by a stone thrown in the city of Gaza. She was driven to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, which reported that her injury is slight.

According to Palestinian sources, five residents were wounded in yesterday's disturbances in the Gaza Strip, including a 15-year-old resident of Rafah who was evacuated to Tel Hashomer Hospital after being hit in the head by a live bullet.

The Palestinian sources also reported two wounded in al-Shati' and two in Jabalyah. They further stated that masked individuals armed with knives and clubs attacked Shabura resident Mahmud Abu-'Aynan, whom they suspected of assisting the authorities. Severely wounded, he was transferred to al-Nasir Hospital in Gaza.

According to military sources, relative quiet prevailed yesterday in the Gaza Strip, with the exception of scattered disturbances. They reported that schools and commerce operated normally. [passage omitted]

In Hebron yesterday, an Egged driver was slightly injured by stones hurled at his bus.

Palestinian sources asserted that on the night between 29 and 30 October, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the home of Idnah resident Jawwad al-Tamas, whom the villagers know to be a collaborator.

Palestinian sources also reported that two residents were wounded by rubber bullets in the Ramallah District village of Bayt Illu and that eight were wounded by beatings. Curfews were clamped on the villages of al-Ra'i and Surif.

Tax Crackdown Slated To End

TA3110062889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The Civil Administration tax-collecting operation in the West Bank town of Bayt Sahur will be wrapped up today, top Civil Administration sources said last night.

According to the sources, today will be the last day of the six-week tax crackdown, during which the army has closed Bayt Sahur to outsiders, imposed intermittent curfews, and disconnected all phone lines. [passage omitted]

The head of the Civil Administration met with Arab education officials in the West Bank and informed them that the current school year would end on November 1. West Bank schools were allowed to reopen in July after an

extended military closure, but over 20 have been closed since then due to disturbances by pupils. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 31 October on page 7, in a related report by Mikhal Qedem and Shim'on Elqabetz on Brigadier General Shay Erez's meeting with West Bank officials, adds that examinations for the 1st through the 11th grades will be held on 1 and 4 November and that "the Arab education officials asked the head of the Civil Administration to release detained students. He promised to consider their request."]

King, Crown Prince Meet UK Air Force Chief

JN2610181889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] His majesty the king received at the Royal Court today General Peter Harding, chief of staff of the British Royal Air Force. The meeting was attended by the commander by the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the British ambassador in Amman.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received at his office today Gen Harding. During their meeting, they reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East issue and challenges facing Jordan. They also discussed the potential available in Jordan for technology-based industries and electronic maintenance in view of the advanced expertise which the Jordanian labor force has acquired.

UK Foreign Office Official Visits Amman

Received by Ibn-Shakir

JN2910174489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir today received in his office (Tom Case), assistant secretary at the UK Foreign Office for Middle East and Africa affairs. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the UK ambassador to Amman also were in attendance.

During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Middle East related to the resolution of the Lebanese crisis, the Iraq-Iran conflict, and the Palestine question, particularly current efforts to achieve peace.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's interest in convening an international peace conference attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent members and all sides to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Such a conference constitutes the best means to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

(Tom Case) voiced his country's support for an international peace conference and cited UK endeavors for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Middle East question which, if implemented, will guarantee the right of all states in the region to live in peace.

The meeting also dealt with relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom, and means to develop them in all fields in a manner to benefit the interests of the two friendly countries.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also received (Tom Case) in his office at the Foreign Ministry today. The UK ambassador in Amman was in attendance.

Meets With King Husayn

JN2910204889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today (Roger Tomax), assistant secretary for Middle East and Africa affairs at the UK Foreign Office. The UK ambassador to Amman attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

37 Companies Barred From Free Disposal of Assets

JN2910183089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 89 pp 1, 15

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Excerpt] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has issued a memorandum prohibiting 37 companies indebted to the Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank from disposing of their assets, including stocks, real estate, and bank deposits before obtaining approval from the two banks' management committee.

In accordance with a decision by the economic security committee, the management committee of the Petra and the Gulf Jordan Banks had earlier recommended the inclusion of the movable and fixed assets of the 37 companies indebted to the two banks. [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes Killing of 'Collaborators'

JN2610085489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Oct 89 p 4

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] In all probability, a recent threat issued against activists of the 22-month-old Palestinian uprising by a group of self-styled collaborators is the work of Israeli agents in a clever scheme to sow dissent among the Palestinians. But that does not alter the reality in the occupied territories that inter-Palestinian violence, which has been on the rise in the past two months, could have created deep schisms among the Palestinian community.

Almost everyday, there are killings and severe beatings by "masked, unidentified assailants"—a media term which points the finger at "enforcers" of the unpising. At this rate, it is not inconceivable that the number of Palestinians killed by fellow Palestinians could overtake the number of Palestinian victims of Israeli bullets in the next six months or so.

According to media counts, 133 Palestinians have been killed by "other Palestinians" since the uprising erupted in December 1987, about 100 of them in this year alone. Most of them were described a known collaborators, and the methods used in killing them varied from brutal stranglings to point-blank shootings. In some cases, "enforcers" are emulating the South African "necklace" killings—lighting fire to fuel-soaked tyres tied around the victim's neck.

No doubt, these killings are cited by the Israelis to augment their cause that they are fighting "terrorists" in the occupied territories. One of the aspects of the indicents is the speed with which the Israeli army confirms the killings while it takes several hours before it confirms deaths and injuries caused by Israeli soldiers.

Well, why blame the Israelis for taking advantage of events delivered to them on a platter? It is time the Palestinians themselves stop in their tracks for a moment and reassess their approach and judge for themselves whether inter-Palestinian killings serve the intifada or not?

First of all, there were at least a couple of dozen cases where the victims had very little to do with the charges of collaborating levelled against them. They simply were the targets of tribal or family feuds. This assessment has been formulated after several weeks of news observation and talks with people with inside knowledge of what is going on in the occupied territories.

In some other cases, the victims were either drug traffickers, prostitutes, neighbourhood bullies or petty criminals, and their deaths were the result of a "cleaning campaign" launched by social leaders in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

That would leave us with about 80 to 90 deaths of "collaborators." But, how many of them were actually guilty of the charges? How many of them were in reality Palestinian double agents but were seen as collaborators?

Adding fuel to the fire are reports from the West Bank and Gaza that several "Palestinian gangs"—varyingly named as "red eagles," "revolutionary eagles," "black panther brigades," "Abu Jihad falangists," etc., etc.—are "terrorising" Arab neighbourhoods. It is increasingly becoming clear that while some Palestinian youths have taken things in their own hands, the Israelis are contributing to the confusion over who represents what and sending a totally blurred picture of "Palestinian violence" in the occupied territories.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has described some of those killed as "quislings" but said all of them were given time to repent and rejoin the Palestinian ranks before they were "punished."

A senior PLO official argues that "many of the collabortors were punished by their families (clans), thus avoiding bloodfeuds among the Palestinians." The argument goes that when family members carry out the punishment against collaborators there is no chance of feelings of "revenge" springing up. In any event, the official argues, "it is difficult to bring discipline to the grass-roots level even in countries with elected governments and designated security forces." Furthermore, "we are in a war of liberation and it is only natural that heads will roll; some of them guilty, some of them innocent. That's a price we have to pay."

But, judging from reports reaching us from the occupied territories, fears are mounting that the situation could be getting out of hand.

It is clear that no single dosage of solution is available to address the chronic inter-Palestinian violence, particularly that the different PLO groups are following individual strategies and plans with little central coordination. But what is alarming is the possibility that some of their organized groups in the occupied territories could soon be fighting among themselves, depending on the rise in the barometer in peace efforts exerted by the PLO leadership.

The net picture would be inter-Palestinian violence in the occupied territories whenever there is a difference of opinion among PLO leaders outside. Isn't it time the PLO leadership read the writing on the wall and moved swiftly to wipe it off?

Journalists Say Democracy Must Extend to Press

JN1910120089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Oct 89 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—As Jordan, by all counts, appears to be on the verge of a new era in its history—be it political, economic or democratic—Jordanian journalists are seeking to consolidate freedom of the press. The argument goes that journalists, their association and the people from all sectors of the nation must struggle to achieve this right in order to function as the "fourth estate" and become a medium of conveying truthful information to the people of Jordan and the world at large.

Speaking at a debate on the press and elections at the Professional Associations Complex Tuesday evening, the head of the Jordan Press Association, Hashim Khuraysat, and two other journalists, Muhammad Tumalah and Muhammad Mudyah, agreed that the current press in Jordan is not as it should be.

"The press will continue to fail in its role if it does not truly become a fourth estate," Khuraysat told the audience, which included journalists and others.

He added that the Jordanian press and publications law—which gives authority to the government to close down any newspaper, and therefore puts many restrictions and limits on journalists' freedoms—must be cancelled. He asserted that the law was "an obstacle for journalistic development, and therefore, public development in awareness in political, economic and social changes."

"How can we become an authority, or a fourth estate, if we have no laws that protect our rights to write and report freely and honestly? How are we to serve the citizens with substantial and truthful information if the press does not belong to its own authority but belongs to a different authority?" Khuraysat asked.

He pointed out that all the journalists who have either been dismissed from their jobs at newspapers or had been previously banned from writing by the government were treated so because of their opinions in their writings and columns. "And these journalists are not protected by the law," Khuraysat said.

One of the speakers, Tumalah, was introduced to the audience as having been fired "arbitrarily" Monday by the SAWT AL-SHA'B Arabic daily "because of a couple of columns he had written that had offended the guilty."

Mudyah contended that the press "has become a toy in the hands of the authorities. Journalists are asked to be labourers for these authorities and are under the constant threat not to write freely on important issues."

Mudyah, who said he himself had faced prison terms and been banned from writing several times in the past 15 years, said that "this is not the time for media backwardness." He noted that "the elections are a step towards democracy, and the press should be given the same democratic atmosphere, especially where the elections are being covered."

"The press must be given the freedom at this point to write and publish people's feelings, and what they want, need and expect for a better future. Free press provides people with truthful and substantial views and information for the people to be able to create their own trends and develop their own views and values on different issues," Mudyah asserted.

On the other hand, Tumalah was cynical about newspapers, saying that they "are handling the elections not as an important development in the Kingdom, but rather as a profit-making development for the publications."

"They see the elections as bringing in more money, especially when they all met and decided to increase the candidates' advertisement rate by 50 percent," Tumalah said.

He complained that only the wealthy candidates would be able to afford advertising in the local newspapers, and therefore only the wealthy will make it to parliament.

He added that the creation of the unified advertising agents for all local newspapers was another proof of profit-hunting from the elections.

On the importance of the press for the people, Khuraysat said that a large section of the society depends on published information on certain local issues, especially the current elections.

He referred to a survey conducted at the University of Jordan on the effect the media had in moving the political and general awareness on the parliamentary elections. "The study found that 60 percent of those surveyed depended on the media to learn about the elections, especially on publications," he said, adding that truth and objectivity must be provided for public awarneess.

Khuraysat cited factors that the press, including television and radio, should tackle in the elections to provide the public with information. The press should:

—have an active role in showing the election process from all its aspects.

—concentrate on the citizens' opinions; their worries and fears of the elections; what is expected from the people, what they expect from the future parliament and deputies and what are the issues that should be tackled. This, Khuraysat said, shows the general trend, and thus helps the candidates in creating their own programmes.

—educate people on the election process, and inform them of their rights and duties.

—present the written laws (electoral), analysis, statements and statistics on the developments of the elections.

—ensure substantial information and objectivity.

—institute new values and basis in dealing with elections through showing the past negative experiences, and finding different formulas that suit the new political, economic, social and cultural situation.

—treat and analyse the positive and negative aspects of the electoral law within the developments of the electoral battles.

Columnist Ridicules Election Campaign Slogans

JN2210115689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" by Fahd al-Fanik: "Election Campaign and the Economic Crisis"]

[Text] The slogans produced so far by the election campaign mill, and showered over the heads of the electorate fall under three headings: Democracy, Palestine, and the Economy. As far as the slogans are concerned, there are very little differences between the candidates competing for the votes of the public.

All candidates are for the restoration of democracy, safeguarding of the constitution, public freedoms, a state based on institutions, dependence of the judiciary, organisation of political parties and expression of opinion.

All candidates are for the Palestinian cause, support of the intifada, and all call for an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil. They are for the national unity and for equal opportunities in job and education for all citizens irrespective of their origin.

All candidates want the economic crisis to be solved. They are strongly against unemployment and higher prices. They support subsidies for basic consumer commodities.

Measured by the slogans I can hardly say that any candidate is better than the other. One has therefore to go back to their past records, and examine the history of the candidates to see what each of them has acually done on line with her/his declared slogans, whether within the government or outside it. I am afraid that the proceeds are very meager. A large proportion of the candidates are not even public figures, and never took a leading role in their local communities nor at the national level. They have come from nowhere thinking that their money and relatives may do the trick.

It is of course far from productive to call for extreme, unrealistic policies and to raise false hopes. It is meaningless, for example, to say we want everything to be good, just, clear, proper and perfect. Every serious candidate should distinguish himself or herself one way or another, or tell us how he or she intends to implement even one of these desired aims and objectives.

I know no one in the government or the opposition who wants more unemployment. Therefore, it is meaningless to raise a slogan that condemns unemployment. We need to be shown how more jobs can be created without worsening other illnesses of the economy; should we ask the government to expand and employ all the unemployed? In this case, how can we reduce the recurring public expenditure and the deficit as other slogans advocate. Or should we demand from companies to increase their staff? In this case what happens to profitability, efficiency and competitiveness?

The solution to unemployment may lie in promoting private investment. But this is not an easy job. It needs the reform of the investment climate by reducing governmental intervention in prices and by clarifying the monetary, financial, and commercial policies, and providing real and effective incentives and more gurantees for domestic and foreign capital. Unfortunately we find most slogans in circulation call for more governmental intervention and price fixing, which will definitely create more unemployment. Problems could not be easily solved simply by decisions taken in the Council of Ministers or the Parliament.

One last stop at the slogan most frequently repeated: "Demanding solutions to the economic crisis." Yes, many candidates want us to elect them simply because they will ask the government to find solutions to the economic crisis. They themselves have no solutions. They have no suggestions or recommendations.

Finally we have one good word about the slogans as related to the economy. No candidate said a word against the policy of correction, and economic restructuring adopted and implemented by the government as of this year, which implies that no set-back is expected under the pressure of a popular parliament. However one candidate demanded the cancellation of the IMF programme and disengagement from the World Bank and the IMF.

If this slogan was adopted, the only beneficiary would be the IMF and the World Bank who would save $300 million of fresh money, and the only loser would be Jordan and its people, especially the low income groups which the candidate wants to help.

Paper Warns Against Fanaticism in Elections

JN3010094789 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Oct p 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Parliamentary Elections and the Harmful Effects of Fanaticism and Bigotry"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Centrism, which our Hashemite leadership has called for, is the solution to all the problems which confront us and the best way to avoid all manifestations of bigotry, ignorance, and fanaticism.

Following this logic, we call on our brothers and the sons of our Jordanian family not to go to extremes and become bigots or fanatics on issues and matters that have no objective relationship to the current election process. This should be the case unless the international conspiratorial forces led by Israel succeed in spreading a sedition affecting all of us, both homeland and people.

The suspect calls issued here and there to disturb the harmony of the parliamentary elections will not find the needed response because of our people's awareness of the conspiracy's dimensions. This awareness will not allow anyone to disturb the harmony of the elections or prevent the candidates, freely elected by the people, from reaching the Jordanian house of representatives. [passage omitted]

We hope that all those who believe in God—and all of us believe in Him—will deal with matters in accordance with His directives. We also hope that no one will go to extremes or fall prey to bigotry or the sin of fanaticism. Man should respect his fellow man and not brand him as ignorant or backward at a time when everybody understands the facts of his religious and worldly affairs.

'Awn Discusses 'Fateful' Issue of Homeland

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[News conference by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn on 27 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] I welcome you today after my second meeting with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general. I want to brief you on the issue of the hour, which is a fateful one. It is fateful not in the sense often used by the people, but because we are at a crossroads, where it will be determined whether there will be a homeland or not.

As you know, I opt for the homeland to remain, and not for its loss by small steps like those we are being forced to make. We tried to put the people on the upward path toward the restoration of the homeland, but it seems that those who are negotiating this issue put them on the downward path, each step leading to one below, and so on.

We will not go over the details of the al-Ta'if draft agreement. I say draft because from the constitutional and legal aspects, and from the points of view of both form and substance, they had no right to conclude such an agreement over a matter that does not concern them, but concerns the government—a matter that involves Syria, which was not there. They unilaterally mortgaged themselves to another country, giving it the power to do what it wants with them without obtaining any of their demands in return. Even if they had the right to do so from the legal point of view, they had no right to conclude such an agreement, which falls within the jurisdiction of the government. The government today represents the procedural authority of the president and the powers enjoyed by the president, in accordance with Article 52 of the Lebanese Constitution. Furthermore, this agreement could result in the loss of part or all of the homeland, as stipulated in Article 2 of the Constitution, because of a lack of prudence and the existence of many loopholes that could be subject to various interpretations by the stronger party in Lebanon; that is, the Syrian occupying party. In addition, the constitutions of several countries, including that of France I suppose, bar any amendments of the constitution under occupation, a lesson that France learned from its bitter experience during the Hitler era, when the constitution was amended by force. This is so because amendments made under occupation tend to favor the occupier.

These are things that we have opposed right from the start. We were against the decision to go to al-Ta'if. However, in consequence of a meeting I held with the deputies, they promised to handle the issue in a certain way. They promised that it would not be a question of guarantees by individuals or countries, but that any guarantees would relate to the way measures will be implemented on the ground. This is because, should the implementation of the agreement come to a halt, we would not lose anything where Lebanon is concerned at any stage. I say Lebanon and not the Christians, the Druze, the Shiites, or the Maronites. We wanted an agreement involving gradual measures that serve Lebanon's interest. However, none of this was honored in al-Ta'if; indeed the reverse was true, 100 percent.

Eventually, after we agreed on the issues, I told them one thing: I have conceded everything. The only thing I want is that reforms should be linked with withdrawal. I said this for one reason. It was not fear of the party who will have power after the reforms are carried out—namely, the future council of ministers, which will have the upper hand—but the fact that this party will be in the area of Syrian occupation and its decision will be mortgaged to Syrian wishes. In return, and so that they would be assured that [words indistinct], I explained to them what my mission was—to entrust them with this task at this stage. I said: When you reach this point, General 'Awn will have a picnic under the pine trees. Do not consider me a candidate. Go—you can even agree on who the next president will be. I asked them to swear by God, telling them to beware of abandoning this point.

I was so insistent because I had the previous experience of the statement they issued at the Bkirki meeting. Three days before that meeting we were here. We discussed certain matters and I explained those matters to them. Nevertheless, they issued that famous statement in Bkirki after which the people demonstrated and expressed their dismay. At that time one deputy was indirectly subjected to [incomplete sentence as heard]. He thought it was a personal matter and that it constituted a quest for the Presidency or for power.

In order to make everyone understand this point, we tell them not to confuse a power struggle inside the homeland with a struggle over goals that deeply concern the homeland. We are not acting within the context of a quest for power. We are seeking to rebuild and restore the existence of the homeland because it is on its way to dissolution. Therefore, the objective behind Gen 'Awn's entire policy is to restore the Republic, not to assume the Presidency. The Presidency will mean something to me when the Republic is restored. In the present context it does not mean anything to me. For this reason I appeal to the worthy journalists, publishers, and editors not to circulate reports pertaining to Gen 'Awn's desire to settle his status or share in power. Gen 'Awn does not want to share in the coming government. Gen 'Awn wants the restoration of the Republic. The Republic will either be restored or not, particularly as, according to the forthcoming law, the forthcoming constitution, the Presidency will not have strong powers, as it is believed. Review the reforms issue. I mean it will not have the power to make executive decisions and will not be able to prevent certain schemes if any appear. This is a concise report of what happened between us and the deputies.

Apparently, after the Bkirki and al-Ta'if statements, there is now an insistence on continuing this process. It appears that there is a clear intention to get to an election

before the 7th of the month [not further specified]. All right, is the election a drug smuggling act, as we said today? Or is it an issue of a president who at least must consult the people he represents and tell them what he intends to do, what his program is? His program is to enact reforms. Okay, is this our only problem, the reforms?

Before they complete the third step, let the deputies be kind enough to return to their base. We are inviting them; we undertake before you to ensure their freedom. They can have any meetings they want with you, on television, before the Lebanese people. Let them convince the people, convince you, and convince themselves and their milieu that what they did was for the good of Lebanon. What is not permitted is for them to try to justify abandoning the homeland because they are afraid. It is we who are fearlessly fighting for the sake of the homeland, not they. Let each of them, please, return to the place where he was living. I do not know what Deputy Ahmad Isbir is afraid of. I am afraid of being hit by a 240-mm artillery shell, but I still stay here. What is it that he is so afraid of that he handed over the homeland?

I beg forgiveness from Deputy Ahmad Isbir for mentioning his name. There are dozens like him. They are all the same in this respect. Those who are afraid, let them go, and those who are not afraid, let them come and sit with us. They are welcome.

Therefore, fear is not a justification for the downfall of the homeland. Doubt in the sense that we might win and might not win is not a justification for the downfall of the homeland. Falling victim to doubt is like losing the battle militarily. How can I accept that the president will leave the Chamber of Deputies for B'abda via the museum crossing point if he cannot come here through Suq al-Gharb? How can I prove to the dead military men and to the martyrs' families that Suq al-Gharb did not fall? When they [Druze Progressive Socialist Party gunmen] advanced a little, we sacrificed a number of martyrs to turn them back across the 10 or 20 meters they had advanced.

How can the deputies justify the diktat that was coming to us from Suq al-Gharb and which we repulsed? They accepted it in ink. We rejected it in blood. They accepted it in ink. How can such a thing be allowed? [applause]

I want to mention another point. Some people believe that we are in a state of contradiction with the parties and with the Lebanese Forces. They say they will clash now and they will carry arms after a while. We are not in a state of contradiction, either with the parties, or with the Lebanese Forces, or with any Lebanese group. We are in a state of contradiction with persons who are party leaders and deputies. We are in a state of contradiction with these persons. The party base on which they have built their glory is our partner on the ground and has been our partner in making sacrifices throughout the past 14 years. The Phalangist who fought in the markets, or in the mountain area, or elsewhere is a part of the base which is making sacrifices for the homeland's sake. Therefore, if there is a problem with the deputies of the Phalangist Party, this does not mean that we have a problem with the Phalangist Party, or with the Phalangist fighters, or with the Lebanese Forces fighters. We have no problem with them. On the contrary, we are still a cohesive entity. Therefore, they understand me and I understand them. When I say unity within free presence and dignity, not within humiliation and capitulation, there is communication between these people and me, and they understand me. I believe they hear me now and understand the message.

Everyone in his position should firmly keep his rules and basic stands. They should not accept the forfeit of sovereignty. We want and are fighting for peace. We are fighting for a cease-fire and for social justice. We want more drastic reforms than those that have been achieved.

Several Lebanese groups are not pleased. Nabih Birri is not pleased because the accord is not fair to the Shiites. Walid Junblatt is not pleased because it is not fair to the Druze. Therefore, the injustice from which they have been suffering has not been removed. The situation will explode at some stage. At whose expense will it explode this time? At the expense of the Christians or the expense of the Sunnis? Why should we return to the stage of struggle if there is no distribution of power among all, as we are asking?

I put forward a reform plan in which I said that the various Lebanese groups must sit down around a table and specify their needs. Whatever is agreed upon will be included in the central part of the government and whatever is not agreed upon will be assigned to the decentralized part of the government. In this way we will preserve the characteristics of the communities. At the same time, we will be fair to them and remove the injustice to them. We also encourage the homeland to unite under the required pluralism or within the existing pluralism.

We have a plurality of views for the sake of unity. This is better than being united in division. All these matters have failed to resolve our problems. They could exert pressure and the situation could explode at any time. The issue at present is that of elections. Why are they pressing for elections? Is there anywhere in the world where people have decided to elect a president in a matter of 10 days? This is impossible, particularly after 14 years of war. First of all, it goes against logic. We also should ensure that the circumstances are conducive to the success of the elections. We rejected elections in 1988 because they were imposed. The deputies are now in five different countries. Can they cooperate with their people to elect a president? If they want to elect a president while they are in five different countries, they can do so and they can stay abroad and elect a president, except he will not be a president of the Lebanese people.

If they want to come, they are invited to come at once. We will discuss the draft agreement which they worked out in al-Ta'if and we will discuss why this happened. We will also agree on what should take place, namely the presidential elections. But if the option is something different and the excesses continue, then it is they and not I who have reached a blind alley. You know how many times I tried to send them messages through you when they were in al-Ta'if? I told them to be aware of this and that.

I believe we have already reached the edge. If anyone jumps into the abysss, that will be his problem, and if anyone hits his head against the wall that will also be his problem. There is a blind alley which no one can bypass. If they want to be rational and flexible, as we know they can be, we too are rational and can be flexible enough, praise be to God, to ride out this situation together.

Some people here say that this person supports the agreement, and that person is making propaganda for the agreement. Why does Gen 'Awn alone reject the agreement? I want to ask you: What is the responsibility of those who make propaganda for the agreement? I mean here is their judicial, political, historic, and constitutional responsibility. This is the responsibility of the government. What is the responsibility of the supporters of the agreement, or those who adopted a neutral stand, or those who have crossed the line as the deputies have done? Who is in charge of defending the trust? The responsibility of the churchmen is spiritual and not political. The government investigates various ideas to formulate a specific tendency for its policy so that this policy may be in line with the people's aspirations. No one other than the government has the responsibility. We undertake consultations and embody aspirations and hopes. No one should hold consultations and formulate ideas abroad. We are not committed to any idea which runs counter to that of the government. This is because the responsibility is moral and the real responsibility should be shouldered by the government.

I accepted this trust in conditions and under certain terms in which a president was carrying out his prerogatives. I will proceed and hand over this trust to a president who will carry out his prerogatives. After this president had been duly elected, reforms can be introduced, but not before that. No mortgaged person [marhun] will be elected president as long as I am in charge. This is something over which there can be no bargaining. No mortgage before he is elected. This is a written mortgage. There are many persons who are mortgaged orally or secretly and problems start to surface later on. But what we have here is a written mortgage and problems have already started. It is more than just an engagement, it is like a marriage consummated before going to [word indistinct].

So what concerns the government in this draft is to reach an agreement with Syria over these points. Neither the Chamber of Deputies nor others have the authority to ratify it, only to the extent that they are able to influence public opinion. Once they are isolated from public opinion, they no longer represent anything. Now if you have any questions to ask go ahead.

[Unidentified reporter] Lakhdar Ibrahimi began his consultations with the leading figures with a meeting with your excellency this morning. Did he bring anything new?

['Awn] No, there is nothing new. We just discussed the program that is being implemented and I briefed him on the difficulties that are being encountered.

[Reporter] Did he bring an invitation for you to visit Saudi Arabia as [words indistinct]?

['Awn] We did not discuss anything in this regard. I am telling you that I informed him of the difficulties that might stand in the way of the completion of the draft agreement reached in al- Ta'if. And I leave it up to him as to whether he wants to announce them or not. I did not necessarily have to tell him everything I am saying here.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister: There is a very important matter concerning the future president. In big countries candidates announce their intentions 1 or 2 years before the election date. What we want is to have a president with a program, and such a president needs at least 6 months for this. Do you hold the same view as far as the future president is concerned?

['Awn] I am not demanding particular time limits, but I am demanding that we be able to consult with each other, at least to have the right of consultation, in a country which they say is democratic. In the name of democracy they met, in the name of democracy they passed the agreement, in the name of democracy they threatened to return to the gun, and in the name of democracy bombs fell on us here, so at least let this democracy continue until a deadline for presidential elections is fixed.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, laughing] How did you reach this conclusion?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] What deputies?

[Reporter] The 62 deputies who were present.

['Awn] Mr Abu-'Atmah: We have prerogatives and we know how to choose the right time. There are several options, more than one alternative, believe me. But there is one option that we will not resort to, which is the gun. This is a promise that I made. We will only resort to the gun in the case of legitimate self-defense.

[Reporter] Is there a parliamentary option?

['Awn] A legal option.

[Reporter] Does this mean you are threatening to dissolve the parliament?

['Awn] Brother, where did you get the word threat from? I am not making any threats. I will exercise what I am entitled to exercise. I am not making any threats. I said there are options. Please, do not use words that are out of place.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you have just said that you support the holding of elections under conditions which will ensure their success. In your view, what are these conditions?

['Awn] They are those conditions that I have always mentioned. We want an atmosphere of freedom—freedom for meetings between the deputies and the candidates and vice versa. A candidate opposed to the Syrian presence in Lebanon must be able to stand in al-Nijmah Square or in front of Government House and state that he does not want the Syrians to remain in Lebanon, and still come back alive. Then, there will be presidential elections. Unless these conditions are fulfilled, no president will be elected.

[Reporter] Does this mean that if Syria does not withdraw there will be no elections?

['Awn] What?

[Reporter] If there is no withdrawal, there will be no elections?

['Awn] I want freedom first. Secure freedom for me. We are not marrying an anonymous man to an anonymous woman, who will know each other only on the wedding night when he and she will remove the veil from their faces. What is this talk? We have had enough of their contempt for us. This is unacceptable. It is not a question of producing chickens. It is not a question of drug smuggling. The picture I am describing to you is the real one. Someone goes to someone else, convinces him, and puts a letter in his pocket. The result is that instead of electing a certain person, the next day they elect someone else. It is shameful. We have had enough. We have had enough of their contempt.

The process of self-respect must begin here in Lebanon with the elections and other things. In the 1972 elections, do you remember what the price of the voter was, what the value of the relationship between the voters and the candidate was in terms of money, sentiment, and respect? It is shameful for us to continue in such a manner.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister...

['Awn, interrupting] Do not monopolize the questions, hurry up.

[Reporter] In all previous elections did we not have a foreign presence, either Israeli or Syrian?

['Awn] For this reason, they have succeeded while we remain embroiled in the crisis.

[Reporter] In view of what your excellency has said, there are questions that must be asked. Do you support the holding of presidential elections or not? What if you cannot stop presidential elections from being held?

['Awn] No, please stop. Please, withdraw your question because I do not want any listener to think that I oppose or I want to obstruct. Please, rephrase your ideas.

[Reporter] Do you support holding elections?

['Awn] For the 100th time I declare that I support holding elections. I will support it to the death. I am fighting for this. I told the deputies this and I told the deputies that I support free elections. I do not support the smuggling of a president in the pocket of those who nominate him. Enough of this subject. Please change the subject.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, there is a secret agreement among the deputies that two-thirds...

['Awn, interrupting] If it is a secret, mademoiselle, how did you know about it? I do not accept such remarks even if they are about the deputies. [laughing] Please, do not ask questions about the deputies.

[Reporter] There is talk about elections outside Lebanon. What is your comment?

['Awn] [Words indistinct] we have said that he who is elected abroad should remain abroad.

[Reporter] Your excellency, Lakhdar Ibrahimi has come with a specific mission; namely, to determine the security zone [words indistinct]. Has your excellency been asked to (?participate) in this matter?

['Awn] This is the duty of the security committee and not the prime minister. This matter should be discussed at the level of the security committee. It is not my duty.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I did not reject the al-Ta'if agreement. The journalists are helping to mislead world public opinion through their questions. I tell them that Gen 'Awn did not reject it. Gen 'Awn supports peace. Gen 'Awn supports reforms. Gen 'Awn supports the cease-fire. Gen 'Awn supports accord and defends the rights of all sects. Gen 'Awn has his reform plan, and Gen 'Awn cannot grant sovereignty by himself. Sovereignty can be lost but can never be granted. They may make me lose sovereignty, and I may have to accept that. But giving it away is the only thing that I reject.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I have no idea. Either there is a will or there is no will. Whoever has the will let him come and talk with us. We are ready to talk to him, because we talk to everyone, from ordinary people to senior officials in all countries

of the world. But resorting to riddles and spreading rumors that there will be solutions in a year's time is unacceptable. Also, no one should say that sometimes efforts move fast and sometimes they move slowly. I depend on your memories to determine this. How many solutions have been proposed since the events began? Can you tell me which of the solutions has been implemented? Lebanon has disintegrated and still there are people who say that sometimes they are hasty but they are slow at other times and [word indistinct]. When someone is expecting a blow, he may look around him 360 degrees and still he will not be able to see anything. We the Lebanese have all the blows falling on our heads because we see nothing. We are in danger. Therefore, do not believe anyone, be he senior politician, junior politician, foreigner, or local. Let those who can see properly have the guts to speak. I am addressing the foreign and local public. I am saying a great many serious things. No one will come to tell you that Gen 'Awn is telling lies or Gen 'Awn is telling the people about his dreams. They say I am stubborn and a rejectionist. Maybe they are right. But they are not saying that Gen 'Awn is a liar and that Gen 'Awn is fabricating the news. Therefore, what I am telling you is correct. If they tell me you are a liar and here is the solution to save Lebanon I will be satisfied. I will rest and I will be happy to lose.

[Reporter] Your excellency, leaflets have been distributed in the eastern areas. Has your government managed to identify those who are behind these leaflets? [passage indistinct]

['Awn] I have received preliminary reports on the distribution of these leaflets. They were dropped from a car passing in the area. Elements which may be connected with a foreign intelligence apparatus are behind the issue. This is possible. I tell the people not to be afraid of this issue although it created a rather confused situation this morning. A lady telephoned me, and she was crying, saying what is going on, for God's sake? I told her it is nothing. I also asked her if she was afraid of papers. [laughter] It is just paper dropped under the cover of darkness. Anyone who wants to express his opinion can do so. The leaflets are typewritten bearing the name of army officers. [Word indistinct] B'abda, the radio station, and the Defense Ministry. [laughter] We could reach communique number 100 and still he would not be known [laughter]. I believe this is a sort of madness.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] From now until the time comes, we will see what happens. However, one should not lose a homeland because of pressures from any party or by being too shy. I can give away what is in my pocket or in my home but, when I am authorized to act for the people, any pressure, no matter how strong, is rejected. I remind you only of the Armenian people who were advised to lay down their arms and of what happened to them afterwards. I remind you of what happened to Lebanon in 1860 when the presence of the Ottoman army was accepted. International advice is all very good. All of them have more land than we do. If they want to please Syria, let them give it some of their land, not ours.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, we notice that you always go back to the people for judgment. The recent demonstrations [words indistinct]. Have you thought of forming a party one day?

['Awn] Let us now just stay at the level of the popular current. When I form a political party I will want to fight the people for power. So far I have not thought of fighting anyone for power. I have national aims [words indistinct]. Afterwards it may be an issue to be discussed. A party means that many things will have to be done on the local level. It would be too confusing now.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] You have been trying to ask your question for a long time. Go ahead and ask it.

[Reporter] The question is not embarrassing.

['Awn] No, no, no. Do not imagine I am afraid of being embarrassed. Absolutely not. But please bear in mind that the terms used in a question stay in a listener's mind as if they were the truth. We too know the technique [previous word in English] of asking questions. Please repeat it and we will tell you what your question means.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct] recently about the possibility of an armed clash between the Army and the Lebanese Forces as a result of the divergence of stands concerning the al-Ta'if agreement. What is your response to these fears?

['Awn] I want to ask you this: Have the Lebanese Forces declared their stand? They have not. We and the Lebanese Forces are in constant touch. Together we are dealing with all topics with continuous and direct vigilance, particularly because we know that foreign and agent services are interfering to cause a showdown between us. We bluntly tell all the intelligence services of the world that there will be no showdown. [applause] ['Awn laughs.]

[Reporter] To correct the question [words indistinct] the presidential elections which they are seeking to hold and which they approved in al-Ta'if. You are saying, your excellency, that despite your eagerness for these elections, the climate, procedures, and conditions in which they should be held do not now exist. You have noted in your statements now [words indistinct]. Does this mean that you will dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, declare a state of emergency and...

['Awn, interrupting] I said there are many options and one of them is to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies. There are many options.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what is your comment on the contents of his beatitude the patriarch's speech upon his return from his visit to the Vatican?

['Awn] On what issue? Specify.

[Reporter] On the results of the al-Ta'if agreement and the stands on it. He spoke about everything and said they are right and you are right.

['Awn] Yes, he spoke about what is absolute and about reality. Perhaps I have answered the question indirectly. I will not evade the question just in order to please nor will I play up the issue. Each person starts from a basic position in order to determine his position. Some people determine their position out of doubt, some out of fear, some out of self-interest, some out of their drive to achieve an aim. Everyone has a basic position.

To remind you of something, in history it is the bold who record the glorious pages. Those who fail are those who are afraid. We have reached a historic chapter, the title of which is boldness, because loss is included in the agreement. Go back, read it and examine it. Do not ask me in your capacity as journalists only, ask as Lebanese citizens who are reading the text before you. You too must decide your position on it, as newsmen do not merely take up a spectator's stand regarding the Lebanese national cause. Go back and read it in its national context and as people who are concerned, and adopt a position.

If I succumb to fear I will not be able to command an army or make a decision vis-a-vis a national issue. I fear for my wife and children, just like any other father. My sons and daughters go to school every day. They are not put in a fortified shelter. I do not put them in a shelter. We are here now because it is publicly known that we are meeting at this fixed hour. This is a precautionary measure. But I do not stay here always. When my appointments are publicly known I sit here with you, but when my appointments have not been publicized, I have never stayed in a shelter. All of us are subjected to danger and fear. We cannot decide the destiny of the homeland. Then they come and say that some people are afraid. Brother, those who are afraid, let them demonstrate. I assure them that I will not do anything to them. Let them demonstrate just like the brave people who demonstrated the other day, so that we will see how many of them there are and how many do not want this political matter so that we will take it into account. I cannot give an authorization to anyone to speak for the people who are afraid and unlucky and so on. All of us are afraid and we are surmounting our fear. All are asked to overcome their fear when it comes to a matter of destiny.

Furthermore, let them consider us Syrian nationals who now possess this island here where we are struggling againt the Syrian regime because it is an oppressive regime, a regime that is still primitive. It has no courts of law—it has graves and prisons. As for the Lebanese who are detained there, you know that there are no courts of law or anything of the sort. Let the world consider that we are a part of Syria, that we have established this island of liberty, and that we are fighting to liberate ourselves from the existing regime in our country. Do we not have this right? Those who are afraid cannot liberate their country. [Word indistinct] let them very simply return to the basic principles of liberation movements. In all countries where such movements occurred there were people who were afraid, people who died, and people whose houses were burned. Despite this, the homelands and the peoples were liberated. Therefore a person might lose causes such as the ones which we are defending but he does not simply give them away—at any price.

[Reporter] What is the time limit for electing a president?

['Awn] It can be 10 days but we must discuss the subject with those concerned.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Let us see what these guarantees are. We cannot give a positive stand on them until the Security Council meets and until we see the text. There is a difference between expressing a desire and expressing a wish. The Security Council has expressed many wishes. At the same time there are firm resolutions, such as Resolution 425. We cannot separate the new resolutions which they will give us from previous experiments. We must make a study and compare the various resolutions. If the new resolutions are good, okay, we will accept them.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] This is a hypothetical question. [Words indistinct] but I do not want to answer it. [laughter]

[Reporter] Are the channels of communications with Syria closed?

['Awn] They have been closed for a long time. [laughter] They have been closed for a long time because there is no equality. The relationship between Syria and Lebanon is not equal. I have adopted very strong stands toward Syria. The relationship with the Syrians is not easy. How can I deal with them? By dialogue. I do not impose anything on others and I will not agree to have anything imposed on me.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] We are prepared to negotiate with anyone to solve the Lebanese problem on the basis of equality, not on the basis of a secret relationship, as they want. The relationship at present consists of intelligence operations and smuggling. We want a public relationship in the sense that we are going to meet at a certain place on a certain level. I want an embassy in Damascus. Then relations will be special. Otherwise, they will be special agreements through which to control Lebanon. We know the tripartite agreement and its contents.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] The one who guaranteed its acceptance in al-Ta'if has guaranteed its acceptance by the Chamber of Deputies. We must not be naive. If it was accepted in al-Ta'if, it will be accepted in Beirut. They took the deputies to al-Ta'if to free them from pressure.

[Reporter, in English] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, in English] I am not rejecting the agreement. I am committed to peace, to reforms, to the cease-fire, to the equality between the Lebanese people, only I cannot accept to concede the sovereignty of Lebanon.

[Reporter, in English] Did anything change [words indistinct] and are you still on the same position?

['Awn, in English] Yes, I am still in the same position and I will like to discuss that with the people, with the deputies who were in al-Ta'if. And I wanted to know why they changed their positions before telling me that, because we agreed before their departure for some procedures and for reaching an agreement which will be acceptable by the government, and by the Lebanese people first.

[Reporter, in English] Can we assume from everything you have said that there will be no elections of a president by 7 November?

['Awn, in English] It depends upon the deputies if they come here or not. They have to come to see their people to discuss with them, because a president must be in a way representative of the population, of their hopes. We cannot....[changes thought] It is not a traffic of drugs, you know. We have to discuss it. We'd be like honest people, you know, to have a time for this campaign, and we would like to see what is waiting for us for this president.

[Reporter, in English] Why are the deputies not coming home?

['Awn, in English] Well, I am inviting all the time, to come here and I'll assure them security, liberty, and even popular meetings to discuss with the people why they have done what they have done, and to convince the people, and maybe I will be the first one convinced. I will preach for the agreement.

[Reporter, in English] After the consultations that you have made this week with groups and [words indistinct] are you convinced that you have enough popular support to continue [word indistinct] not accepting an agreement [words indistinct] accepted by the main political forces [words indistinct]?

['Awn, in English] Okay, if I have to compare numbers, those people who demonstrated against this agreement outnumber all the Armed Forces of the Syrian troops here, the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Forces, and all the other militias. And if I compare the number of people that demonstrated with the number of electors in 1972, they outnumber them also. So I think I have enough representation of the Lebanese people.

[Reporter, in English] One last question: There is much speculation about (?bending) the Constitution and dissolving Parliament. Is this something you are thinking of doing?

['Awn, in English] That's an alternative among many others.

[Reporter, in English] Do you think the planned meetings of the deputies on 7 November are going to be a symbol for peace or for war?

['Awn, in English] Well, I think if they come here we can discuss it. But if they don't, if they want it that it will be a war, I don't think a war, but something like war [sentence as heard].

[Reporter, in English] Do you feel in any sense betrayed by the deputies that you have met here before they went to al-Ta'if?

['Awn, in English, laughing] All the way.

[Reporter, in English] Do you think they are afraid to come back?

['Awn, in English] Not of me, they are not afraid of me. They are afraid of the people.

[Reporter, in English] What do you think will happen to them if they come back here?

['Awn, in English] I don't know, demonstrations [word indistinct] at them, you know. Maybe they can't meet their supporters because they betrayed everybody. They are not our wishes and our hopes, so I have to protect them from their people, I have to send them soldiers, bodyguards.

[Reporter, in English] Do you guarantee their safe conduct?

['Awn, in English] Yes. Yes, I guarantee their presence here and I assure them all the people if they want to meet with them and to discuss the problem. Free speech to convince people. And I say that and all of you are witnessing.

[Reporter, in English] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, in English] They have to agree first with the people. I do not want anything from them so I will quit. I have said that before. If the people don't support me in this campaign, I quit. So if they can convince people to go with the deputies, okay, I will be satisfied. So I say okay, if people are [word indistinct] okay. I don't worry for the rest.

[Reporter, in English] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, in English] Well, we are living in a very small and narrow country where everybody knows all the others, and we can define all positions. It is not a difficult matter to know that.

[Reporter, in English] I understand that a number of deputies are staying in Europe and [passage indistinct].

['Awn, in English] So they are involved with the plan. If they don't come that means they are involved. If they still have their liberty, they have to come.

[Reporter, in English] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, in English] I have many prerogatives then. I can use my prerogatives.

[Reporter, in English] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, in English] Well, many courses of action. Not hot, let us say. [laughter]

[Reporter] Can you tell us in Arabic what you said?

['Awn] He asked if I have popular support. I told him that the number of demonstrators exceeded the number of the Syrian and Lebanese forces together with the number of militiamen in Lebanon. I also told him that the number of voters who elected the deputies in 1970 also exceeded the number of the voters who elected the deputies who are in al-Ta'if. Therefore, I believe that I represent the Lebanese people more than they do. [applause]

'Awn Said Planning To Dissolve Chamber 3 Nov

NC3110070689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The newspaper AL-ANWAR reports that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has given the deputies until Thursday [3 November] to return to Lebanon. If they do not return by that time to explain their viewpoint to the people, he will sign a decree dissolving the Chamber of Deputies and will hold a news conference on Friday afternoon at which he will announce the Chamber's dissolution.

The newspaper reports that General 'Awn might resort to other constitutional measures.

Israeli Warship Attacked; Casualties Reported

NC3110063389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] In the resisting south, a resistance fighter blew up his boat near a Zionist warship north of Ra's al-Naqurah yesterday. The fighter was martyred and three Zionist soldiers were injured.

PFLP Claims Attack

NC3110084689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has released a statement on the naval operation carried out off the Ra's al-Naqurah coast yesterday. In the statement, the PFLP emphasized that the Wadi' Haddad's special unit of the Popular Front's naval forces attacked a Zionist gunboat, sinking it with all its crew members. According to the statement, the Zionist gunboat tried to intercept a Popular Front boat which was on a special mission.

Syrian-Hizballah Clashes in Suburb Reported

NC3010185789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Since 1930, isolated clashes involving machineguns have been going on in the al-Ruways area in the Southern Suburb between the Syrian occupation troops and armed elements who are believed to belong to Hizballah.

Israeli Military Movements in South Noted

NC3110092689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] It is reported from the south that Israeli military movements have been observed on the ridges of al-Shaqif, 'Ali al-Tahir, and al-Dabshah over the past few hours. Israeli occupation forces have created new positions between Dayr Siryan and al-Tayyibah.

The same reports noted that the siege of Dayr Siryan and al-Tayyibah has continued since yesterday because of the inhabitants' refusal to cooperate with the occupation forces.

Al-Asad Meets Former Lebanese President Franjiyah

JN2710153489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] At 1130 today President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah accompanied by his grandson, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah. During today's meeting, they completed the discussion of topics raised yesterday. The topics were the Lebanese situation, the national reconciliation document approved by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, and the possibility and ways of implementing this document.

President Franjiyah and his grandson left Damascus this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Syria. They were seen off at the Damascus northern entrance by Presidency Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil.

Al-Asad, Al-Shar' Receive Arab League's Klibi

JN3010132089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1115 today Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the meeting, talks revolved around the Arab situation and the Arab League's activities.

The foreign minister received Chedli Klibi this morning. Talks revolved around the Arab situation and ways of bolstering Arab solidarity. Talks also dealt with the current situation in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Asad's Moscow Visit Reportedly Postponed

JN2610212889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Oct 89 p 23

(Text) AL-QABAS has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the USSR set for the first half of this month has been deferred at Damascus' request. The postponement came because the Kremlin failed to accommodate Syria's desire "that the visit usher in a qualitative shift in Soviet-Syrian relations," as one Soviet official put it.

The program of President al-Asad's visit called for the signing of arms purchase agreements—something Moscow has refused to do until a substantial part of military debts owed to it are settled.

Damascus was said to have asked for a postponement of the visit to early November, or, alternatively, for a debt rescheduling that takes into account Syria's strategic requirements.

Bulgarian Security Official Concludes Visit

Received by Al-Ahmar

JN2810134489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Comrade Velko Palin, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chief of the Social and National Security Policy Department, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Talks centered on relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party, ties between the two countries, and ways to develop these links in a manner reflecting positively on the goals and interests of the two peoples.

Bulgarian delegation head Velko Palin expressed his and the delegation's positive impressions of the positive developments and important changes which have affected the Syrian Arab people and their development. He also affirmed his party's and country's support for the Syrian struggle against Israeli aggression and for retrieval of usurped Arab rights and land.

In this meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially the good results of the agreement among the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, which promotes the current steps to solve the Lebanese crisis. He added that Syria's stand has always been to provide the brother Lebanese with support to preserve the unity, Arab identity, and independence of Lebanon through national accord among all its sons.

In his speech, Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed that just peace in the region cannot take place except through affirming the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, self-determination, and establishing their state on their homeland, Palestine. Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed to the head of the guest delegation the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's greetings to the Bulgarian Communist Party's leadership.

Delegation Seen Off at Airport

JN2910203189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 29 Oct (SANA)—The Bulgarian Communist Party delegation headed by Velko Palin, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chief of the Social and National Security Policy Department, left Damascus today.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Major General Salah-al-Din al-Dabbagh, assistant interior minister; a number of comrades from the External Affairs Bureau of the Ba'th Party National Command; the Bulgarian ambassador to Damascus; and the embassy staff.

'Sources' Cited on Saudi Foreign Minister's Talks

JN2910182589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a considerable part of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's talks with Syrian officials in Damascus last week centered on the need to hold the presidential elections in Lebanon before 7 November. The talks also dealt with the names of candidates to the post of president of Lebanon.

Arab sources in Damascus said that the talks focused on three names—Rene Mu'awwad, Michel al-Khuri, and Michel Iddah—which the Syrian leadership assured Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal it would not object to as candidates for the post of president of Lebanon. Syria said that its only condition is that the candidate chosen must not clash politically with Syria.

These sources also quoted Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam as saying that former Lebanese Minister Michel Iddah is the most auspicious candidate because of his balanced Arab and international relationships and the absence of any political differences between him and the sides involved.

Paper Says Syria To Defend Lebanese Solution

JN2810094389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In a front-page comment, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Lebanese people as well as the world have discarded 'Awn because he has gone outside the framework of the age, outside the logic of the new Lebanon, and outside the logic of Arabism. Therefore, he is outside time and outside what is possible and available on national, pan-Arab, social, and political levels. Lebanon must be reconstructed without him. In fact, it is practically impossible to reconstruct Lebanon with him present.

Therefore, all the possibilities he is brandishing, which are future concerns for everyone, have fallen. They are dead possibilities which cannot save him from his impasse, even if he insists on his stand rejecting the proposed solutions and seeking to destroy Lebanon. He will not be allowed to do so. He will be the only loser, and will eventually find nothing to insist on. The will of a people, a homeland, and a nation is stronger than the will of any individual, let alone a stupid and reckless agent.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that al-Asad's Syria has led the Lebanese solution to maturity and sponsored it with blood and sacrifices in the interest of Lebanon, the Arabs, and pan-Arab future. Syria will not allow that this solution to be spoiled or undermined. The destiny of an independent, united Lebanon—people and homeland—is much more important than any narrow personal interest, and it is above any adventure or adventurer. It will be nothing but what the Lebanese people want, which is, necessarily, what Syria wants.

Paper on Israeli Rejection of 'Proposed Plans'

JN2210104689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 22 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has affirmed that Israel wants land and peace together and seeks to open the way before its expansionist schemes at the expense of the Arab land.

In its comment today, the paper highlights Israel's rejection of all proposed plans to settle the Middle East problem, including the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The paper says that Israel rejects these proposals and future plans on the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent state because Israel basically rejects the idea of peace and seeks to achieve its expansionist schemes.

The paper adds: We must go back to the correct principles of peace by intensifying the international effort to convene a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by all concerned parties. This is the nearest and safest path to reach a just solution.

The paper affirms that the bases of peace and stability are clear. But Israel alone obstructs peace and adheres to projects and illusions, continuing its aggression and expansion and disregarding international pacts and norms.

The paper concludes: Active and effective Arab solidarity remains the pivotal element in determining the conflict and achieving victory for the Arabs and their central cause—Palestine. This is because unifying the Arab word and the Arab stand is the most important element to achieving a just peace, as long as Israel rejects the calls and bases of just peace.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand, Others Open Hazara Nationality Center

LD2910121489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 28, BAKHTAR—A Hazara nationality mobilization centre was opened today in Kabul. Our correspondent reports that Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, 'Abdul Wahid Sowrabi, vice-president, Sulayman La'eq and Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA CC, Nezamuddin Tahzib, supreme judge of the Republic of Afghanistan, Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and the first secretary of the Revolutionary Organization of the Toilers of Afghanistan, Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister for state security, some deputy speakers of the both houses of the parliament and members of the working commission of the Presidency with the Hazara nationality, Kabul mayor, some generals of the Armed Forces and a number of clergies participated at the meeting held on the occasion here today.

At the outset of the meeting, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers spoke about the significance of the Hazara nationality.

Mobilization center, tasks and responsibilities of the members of the center in regard to realization of the national reconciliation and ensurance of a nation-wide peace in the country.

Later on Ahmad 'Ali Fakur, chairman of the Hazara Nationality Mobilization Center spoke on the issue as well. The report adds that orders of the Republic of Afghanistan were awarded to a number of officers of Wardak and Ghazni operative groups and some responsibles of the Nationality Affairs Department for the recognition of their meritorious services.

Keshtmand Leaves for Medical Treatment in USSR

LD3010163589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee left for the Soviet Union this morning for a medical check and treatment.

Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, first deputy prime minister; Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, Sarwal Mangal, Mahbubullah Koshani, Muhammad Hakim, deputies to the prime ministers, as well as Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary representative of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan, saw Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand off at Kabul International Airport.

Bulgarian Leaders Send Message to Najibullah

LD3110093889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of that country have sent a gratefulness message addressed to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] in response to the congratulatory message already sent to that country on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the victory of the socialist revolution of Bulgaria.

Further on UN Aid Convoy Stranded on Salang Road

BK3010162089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 30 (AFP)—Some 200 trucks carrying United Nations aid to Afghanistan have been stranded for at least a week north of the Salang Pass because of fighting between Afghan resistance and government troops, a government spokesman said here Monday [30 October].

The supply column left the northern Afghan border on October 17 loaded with medicine, food, clothing and construction materials and has been stranded in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, two days drive from Kabul, the spokesman said.

"It cannot move as the Salang Pass has been closed for the past seven days," the spokesman said, referring to the fighting on the road which cuts through the mountainous Hindu Kush barrier between the northern border and the Afghan capital.

(In Islamabad, a report from the guerrilla-run news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] said the highway had been closed since October 17 when a 200-truck convoy of food and fuel was destroyed.

(The report said the Moslem guerrillas continued their attacks Wednesday, ambushing a large supply convoy at Khenjan district, some 160 kilometers north of Kabul.

(Quoting a radio message from a commander inside Afghanistan, the news agency said 35 soldiers had been killed during the operation and 65 injured. Guerrillas captured two Afghan Army officers, it said, putting the mujahidin losses at two dead.

(MIDIA said Afghan Government planes had been heavily bombing the mujahidin positions in reprisal attacks to force them to lift a blockade of the highway, but gave no casualty figure.)

The Afghan Government spokesman said the fighting was on the Kabul side of the pass, and that government troops had recently launched a small scale operation to try to dislodge the resistance troops.

The 400 kilometers long Salang highway is the major route used by the Soviet Union to transport its weapons and food supplies to Kabul. Its proximity with mujahidin strongholds has resulted in repeated disruption of traffic during the 10-year Afghan war.

The Kabul government spokesman said the mujahidin, who have long threatened to close the "lifeline" before the bitter winter begins in Kabul, were commanded by charismatic leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as well as fundamentalist Golbuddin Hekmatyar.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian and economic relief program for Afghanistan, has said that a part of Europe's aid to Afghanistan would be channeled through Finland and the Soviet Union.

Under an accord with the United Nations, Moscow has agreed to pay transport costs through its territory on a railway line that ends at the Hairatan border post, from where the aid is transported into Afghanistan by road using drivers hired by the United Nations.

5 Injured in Missile Attack on Kabul 30 Oct

LD3010152789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The criminal extremists today fired 5 long-range U.S. missiles and commited another crime against our Muslim people. According to a report by the BIA military section, as a result of this antihumane and anti-Islamic action against the peaceful life of our compatriots, which was carried out under the direct instructions of the United States and Pakistan in accordance with their state terrorism policy, five of our compatriots were injured.

One of the missiles which were fired, landed in Khalesa Daramsar [a Hindu religious place] in Shur Bazaar [in Kabul city] as a number of our Hindu compatriots were performing their religious rites. Fortunately, it did not cause any loss of life, but inflicted material damage.

The BIA military section correspondent reports from hospitals in Kabul city that the condition of those who were injured in yesterday's missile attack is satisfactory and they are improving as a result of efforts made by the personnel of those hospitals.

Officials Seize 7 Surface-to-Surface Rockets

BK3110100689 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The employees of the Anticrime Department of the Ministry of Interior detected and captured seven surface-to-surface rockets of (?Sacker)-20 type in the vicinity of (Safimon). BIA reports that the rockets were concentrated and placed by the extremist criminal groups under the plans of state terrorism of the United States of America and Pakistan with the object to be fired on residential areas of Kabul city. The rockets were captured by timely action of employees of Antistate [as heard] Department of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Missiles, Arms Seized in Various Provinces

LD3010095989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 29, BAKHTAR—The in-charges of anti-crime department of the Ministry of Interior detected and [as received] seven surface-to-surface rockets, Sacker-20, from the surroundings of Kuh-e Safi area, Kabul Province today, reports BAKHTAR military office. Based on the state terrorism of the United States and Pakistan, the said rockets were adjusted to be fired on the residential areas of Kabul city.

According to another report, two opposition armed groups consisting of twenty two persons joined the policy of national reconciliation in Parvan Province. At a meeting held in their honour, Muhammad Rahim and 'Abdul Zahir, ringleaders of the said groups expressed readiness not to spare any efforts for the attainment of peace and ending of war in the country.

Quoting the sources of the oposition armed groups, Radio Voice of America says that two commanders of Harakat (movement) namely 'Abdul Zahir [name as received] and Ghulam Hazrat together with their members were killed in a battle nearby Farah city. The said radio adds that six followers of this group including Muhammad Qasim Amin, the commander of the group, are captives at the hand of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

One mercenary of Saudi Wahhabi was killed and another injured in a horrible explosion blasted in one of the centre of Golbuddin extremist band nearby Qarghah'i District, Laghman Province today. Similarly, several followers of Golbuddin were wounded and a large quantity of arms arsoned as a result of the blast which was organised by his rival extremist group.

2 Armed Groups Join Reconciliation Policy

BK3110093889 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Two armed groups, comprising 22 persons, recently joined the policy of national reconciliation in Parvan Province. Muhammad Rahim and 'Abdul Qadir, the ringleaders of the aforementioned groups, expressed their readiness in ensuring peace and security and stoppage of war and bloodshed in the country.

India

Minister Criticizes Congress Party Over Polls

BK3010104489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 30 (AFP)—Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant dealt a blow to Premier Rajiv Gandhi on Monday [30 October] by refusing to fight next month's general elections from two districts picked by the ruling Congress (I) Party.

Mr. Pant, a senior member of Mr. Gandhi's cabinet, also flayed the Congress (I)'s operating style after being denied permission to fight the parliamentary polls from his home town of Nainital in northern Uttar Pradesh State.

The minister, who has held his portfolio since April 1987, told reporters here that his request to contest the polls from Nainital had been approved this month by Mr. Gandhi, who is also Congress (I) president.

But instead the party had asked him to contest the two constituencies of Aonla, also in Uttar Pradesh, and New Delhi. He won a seat in the 1984 general elections from the latter.

Mr. Pant said he had declined the offer, and in an unusual show of temper lashed out at what he described as "bossism" and "certain undesirable trends" in the Congress (I) Party.

"The revival of party bossism and the unwarranted interference of inexperienced non-political coteries in political decision making has been causing concern to all of us for some time," he said.

"Elections are no doubt important, (but) the pulls and pressures of petty politics sometimes appear to be more important than they really are," he added.

Mr. Pant, who represented Nainital in parliament for three successive terms from 1962, did not blame anyone by name for the constituency change. But observers said his remarks suggested he held Mr. Gandhi's non-political aides responsible.

Some of Mr. Gandhi's close aides are known to be serving and former bureaucrats, and their proximity to the premier is known to be a sore point in the higher echelons of the Congress (I).

Asked if he would quit the cabinet, Mr. Pant said: "I will have a word with the prime minister."

The Congress (I) is expected to face a tough battle in parliamentary elections scheduled on November 22, 24 and 26 from a near-united and determined opposition that has vowed to end Mr. Gandhi's five-year term.

Refuses To Run for Seat Assigned

BK3010160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has stated that he would not be contesting the Lok Sabha elections from the two constituencies of Aonla in Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi offered to him by the Central Parliamentary Board [CPB] of the Congress-I Party. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Pant said he had wanted to contest from Nainital in Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, an AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] spokesman talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening expressed regret that Mr Pant has declined the CPB offer. He said that Mr Pant had himself asked for Aonla constituency as one of his choices and New Delhi was the constituency which had elected him last time.

Congress-I To Contest 509 of 529 Seats in Poll

BK3110091889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The battle line has been drawn with the major parties releasing the final list of candidates to the 529 Lok Sabha seats for which elections are to be held. The Congress-I is contesting 509 seats and has left 19 seats to its poll allies. The party is not contesting the Darjeeling seat.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has announced four more candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies in Gujarat and in the union territories of Delhi and Daman and Diu. The party has so far announced candidates for 188 constituencies. The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani, told newsmen that his party has decided seat adjustments with the Janata Dal in about 275 constituencies, but candidates overlap in about 25 of them. Mr Advani said no understanding could be reached with the Janata Dal in Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Tripura.

The National Front spokesman, Mr Dinesh Goswami, claimed that the Front constituents will together put up candidates in about 375 Lok Sabha seats.

According to a press release, the Janata Party-JP will have electoral adjustment with the Insaf [Justice] Party. It also released its fifth list of 24 candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies.

HINDU Links Gandhi to Bofors Arms Scandal

BK3110070989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 31 (AFP)—A respected Indian newspaper Tuesday alleged the "direct and personal involvement" of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his "intimates" in a payoff scandal involving Sweden's Bofors arms company.

THE HINDU said entries in the personal diary and handwritten notes of former Bofors President Martin Ardbo, which were seized by the Swedish police in November 1987, provided "irrefutable" evidence of Mr Gandhi's involvement.

Tuesday's startling HINDU investigation was published simultaneously in at least two other leading newspapers here, but evoked no immediate response from the government or Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

The Bofors scandal broke in April 1987 when the company was accused of paying huge bribes to key Indian officials to win a 1.3 billion U.S. dollar contract in 1986 to supply 400 howitzer guns and ammunition to the Indian Army.

With regular exposure in the media here, it has become India's biggest corruption scandal and seriously tarnished the image of the 45-year-old Mr Gandhi, who faces crucial parliamentary elections in November.

THE HINDU, which has been in the forefront of the Bofors expose, Tuesday published a facsimile of a July 1987 entry in Mr Ardbo's diary about a meeting between one Bob Wilson and a "Gandhi trustee lawyer" who was not named.

Mr Ardbo is now on trial in Sweden on charges of illegal arms export. Mr Wilson was identified as a representative of A.E. Services, a London-based firm accused of being one of the front companies which received the kickbacks.

THE HINDU said: "If there had been no involvement or complicity of the prime minister in the corrupt transaction—that is, in the payoff as well as in the cover-up—there would have been no question of a Gandhi trustee lawyer being in direct contact with the totally unknown Mr Bob Wilson...."

The daily called the Arbdo diary entry "direct and irrefutable evidence" of "the direct and personal involvement of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his intimates in the corrupt Bofors payoff to A.E. Services, Ltd."

THE HINDU alleged that Mr Ardbo knew the "real identity" of the recipients of the Bofors payoffs and that he was among those who wielded "direct power" over the Indian Government because of this knowledge.

Mr Gandhi, who has denied his family's involvement in the Bofors scandal, has repeatedly contradicted himself under the weight of media exposures of the Bofors controversy.

According to THE HINDU investigation, nearly 40 million dollars was paid by Bofors to some front companies to clinch the 1986 deal and more would have been paid if the whistle was not blown in April 1987.

The Bofors scandal led to the resignation in July of more than 100 opposition MP's after an official watchdog body indicted the government in the controversy.

4 'Terrorists' Killed, 2 Arrested in Punjab

BK3010155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] In Punjab, four terrorists have been killed and two arrested in separate incidents in Amritsar District. According to police, a farmhouse near (Baltowa) was raided today on a definite information that the terrorists were hiding there. The terrorists opened fire. The security forces returned the fire, killing four terrorists. Among the killed is Rashim Singh, who carried a reward of 100,000 rupees on his head.

In another incident, two hardcore terrorists were arrested after an encounter in Harike area of Amritsar District last night. Four of their accomplices, however, managed to escape.

Commentary Views Production of Radio Isotopes

BK3110125889 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Biman Basu commentary: "Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy"]

[Excerpts] The recent report of a new method of growing oil palm plants in the lab developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Center [BARC] has raised hopes of increasing the production of a valuable edible oil. [passage omitted]

Development of a tissue culture technique on growing oil palm is just one small activity of the BARC. The main function of the center is in the field of developing radio isotopes and other techniques of peaceful application of nuclear energy. [passage omitted]

Radio isotopes are produced in all nuclear reactors, including those used for power generation, but for producing specific radio isotopes for different applications, research reactors are used. In India, there are six research reactors, including the Dhruva [reactor at Kalpakkam in Madras], which are used to produce these isotopes. The BARC has facilities for not only producing these isotopes, but also for separating and packaging them for users.

For the production of a new type of product called Phosphorus-32 Biomolecules, which finds use in genetic engineering and biotechnology programs of the country, a new laboratory named (Jonaki) was commissioned in November 1987. It will meet the total requirements of the product in future. [passage omitted]

India is the only developing country to have mastered the entire technology of nuclear cycle, from mining of uranium and fabrication of the fuel to designing and construction of nuclear plants and running them, and

this country has proved beyond doubt that the atom is not an enemy of man but a helpful friend.

Iran

Khamene'i Appoints Shamkani New Naval Chief

LD3010163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution on Monday appointed 'Ali Shamkhani as the commander of the Iranian Navy and granted him the rank of rear-admiral.

In his decree, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i described Shamkhani as "a brave combatant" and expressed hope that he would substantially enhance the Navy's efficiency by exploiting the force's vast capacity and capability.

Shamkhani has already served as the Ground Forces commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) during the Iraqi war, and later as IRGC minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also lauded Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan for his services during the Iraqi-imposed war and expressed hope that he could use Malekzadegan's experiences in the group of his military advisors.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic empowers the leader to appoint commanders of the Armed Forces.

Issues Edict on Change of Command

LD3010183489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, promoted Mr 'Ali Shamkhani to the rank of Commodore [Daryadari]—the Navy's equivalent of brigadier general—transferred him to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and appointed him commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the edict is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the courageous and self-sacrificing combatant His Excellency Mr 'Ali Shamkhani. One is reminded of your valuable services, your great struggles in the arenas of battle, in commanding victorious operations, and the sensitive responsibilities you shouldered in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Also, as the late eminent imam decreed, the Army and the Guards Corps form the front lines of the revolution and that to fulfill the meaning of these wise words, these two organizations should cooperate in all holy wars and assist and help each other. One must now bear in mind that presently the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic are summoning you to one of its important positions of responsibilities. Therefore:

1. I transfer you to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and promote you to the rank of commodore, the Navy's equivalent of brigadier general.

2. I appoint you Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy. The duties of Your Excellency are to attain the highest point of efficiency for the Navy, which has extensive potential and excellent resources with regard to equipment and personnel. During the years when Commodore Malekzadegan was its commander, the Navy made impressive and substantial progress and brought pride and honor during the imposed war. You should utilize the Navy's potential; in particular, you should make every endeavor to train naval commanders that are pious, faithful, and brave, and identify its competent and committed personnel with a view to promoting them.

Another important duty which I must highlight is cooperation and coordination with other branches of the Armed Forces via the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, and with other Armed Forces through the channels which lead up to the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces. The personnel of the Navy are dutybound to acknowledge your presence in that force and to give full cooperation. I must sincerely acknowledge the unstinting efforts and services rendered by Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan during his term as Navy commander, and I hope that the advisory group of the commander in chief will benefit from his experiences and efficiency.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Inauguration Ceremony Held

LD3110134389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] An inauguration ceremony was held this morning for Commodore Shamkhani, the new commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ceremony was attended by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Also attending the ceremonies were Firuzabadi, chairman of the Armed Forces General Staff; the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the chairman of the Joint Armed Forces and Guards Corps Headquarters; the chairman of the commander in chief's advisory group; representatives of the supreme jurisconsult in the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces; commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps; and their deputies.

In a comprehensive speech, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief, said: We are grafeful to Almighty God for giving us the great opportunity to take an effective step toward establishing solidarity and increasing communications between these two great military organizations of the Islamic Republic of Iran: the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the

Armed Forces. We are glad we were able to transfer one of the outstanding generals of the holy crusade from the Guards Corps to the Armed Forces, thus establishing deeper ties between the two organizations, in accordance with the wishes of the Iranian nation and, above all, our dear and great imam.

He added: This transfer of personnel between the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces is, of course, not unprecedented although rare. In the past, the outstanding martyr Kolahdust voluntarily transferred from the Armed Forces to the Guards Corps and gave invaluable service in high-ranking posts in the Guards Corps, and finally achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom. [passage omitted]

Stressing the importance of the country's southern border and its significance regarding the political, economic, and strategic issues of our country, he said: Our industrious, efficient, and brave Navy is fortunately rich in terms of equipment, efficient and specialist manpower, and ready personnel. Commodore Shamkhani should further increase the efficiency of that force by appointing able military personnel to high-ranking positions.

Finally, stressing the importance of establishing complete unity between the Navy and the Guards Corps Navy, he said: The greatest effort should be made so that commitment, faith and piety, and unconditional commitment to the fate of the country, the revolution, and the Islamic Republic system will become the outstanding characteristics of the Navy, so that the way is paved for growth and the promotion of suitable personnel in that force. This will continue the improving trend of the Navy. [passage omitted]

Majlis Approves Draft Bill To Counter U.S. Move

LD3110084189 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—A draft bill on countering U.S. terrorist moves was approved with majority of votes in the open session of the Majlis here Tuesday.

The draft bill, proposed by over 150 deputies and given double urgency, is related to a recent U.S. Congress decision authorizing arrest and kidnapping of those found guilty by U.S. Judiciary, with any nationality anywhere in the world without the permission of the relevant country.

The deputies stressed that the U.S. move was a flagrant violation of international law and the sovereignty of world countries.

The draft bill aims at preserving the prestige and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic, safeguarding the lives and properties of Iranian nationals abroad and defending the interests of the Islamic Republic.

The bill which is in the immediate agenda of the Majlis is raised on eve of the national day of campaign against global arrogance (November 4 marking the anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. den of espionage in 1980).

According to the draft bill, the president is authorized to take necessary measures when needed for the arrest and punishment of Americans convicted by Iranian Judiciary.

In a supplementary note, the draft bill reiterated that the jurisdiction of the bill covers all those countries which grant such a right to the United States. U.S. citizens who take any action against the lives of Iranian citizens or interests of the Islamic Republic anywhere in the world will be tried at courts inside the country in accordance with the Islamic jurisprudence, said the second supplementary note to the draft bill.

The law would be in force as long as the U.S. President enjoys the right to commit such irresponsible acts, the third note reads.

Editorial on President's Solution to Hostages

NC3110104889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "President Offers Way Out of Hostage Issue"]

[Text] At his first news conference for the foreign media this week President Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained his customary composure and fielded quite a large number of questions during the three hour stint without tripping over even once. A constant refrain in the questions put to him by the Western mediamen in particular had to do with the fate of the hostages held in Lebanon and further on future relationships between Iran and Western countries in the wake of the new effort at economic reconstruction here.

Although the hostage issue is ground that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has gone over at earlier news conferences, it was worth plodding over again. Again this time he made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran most definitely stands against the inhumane and cruel practice of hostage-taking and that this nation most certainly would like to help rather than exacerbate problems relating to this issue. But it is so very unfortunately entangled and complicated that one wonders who really is responsible. The president quite rightly pointed out that hostage-taking and the tragedies connected with it were brought on by the big powers themselves and they should take the blame.

However, Iran is willing to help, the president said, by using all the leverage it had with the Muslims in Lebanon with which it shares certain objectives in common. Those Muslims in return may try to trace out the hostages. To do this, the U.S. should release the Iranian assets frozen and held in that country and moreover Iran would like to have a very clear explanation of what the fate of Iranian hostages held by Maronite groups in Lebanon has been.

As to the first condition the U.S. maintains that the issues of the frozen assets and the release of the hostages should be treated separately and not made conditional one on another. And as to the Iranians taken hostage in Lebanon both the U.S. and the archbishop of Canterbury have informed Iran earlier that their captors had killed them. If this was the case, then there should be clear proof that this has been so. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani challenged a reporter to ask those who say so to produce proof such as personal belongings of the dead men, or the location of their graves.

Both these requests the president made are not difficult for the parties concerned to fulfil, if they only have the will to do so and make an end to this sorry and sordid business of trading in the lives of human beings. Nevertheless political circles feel that the president has made the offer to the West in the hope that there can be some response. And yet their optimism is muted since they are of the feeling that the West now is far too euphoric about having made a breakthrough with the Eastern bloc countries where the dreaded edifices of communism appear to be slowly coming apart. The Western powers however, pretend to their nations that they are still very concerned for their citizens in captivity.

France Warned Against 'Anti-Islamic Campaign'

LD3010164389 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Head of the Hajj and Awqaf (Religious Endowments) Organisation today warned France against its curent anti-Islamic campaign of destroying mosques and pressuring local Muslims. "Such acts breach the very principle of freedom which the French regime claims to uphold, and certainly hurts the sentiments of the world's one billion plus Muslims,' Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Imam Jamarani made it clear.

Deploring the French Government's failure to take effective measures in this regard, he called for the prosecution of those responsible for destroying mosques, an act, which he termed "an insult to divine religions." "Politicians are certainly mistaken if they think they can belittle Islamic values through such moves," he said.

The French radio today quoted police as reporting that unidentified persons destroyed the newly reconstructed town mosque of Chavrieaux-Chavagneux, 30 kms from Lyon. It was the second time this year that the mosque had been the target of anti-Islamic elements. Earlier, on August 16, French bulldozers razed the said mosque to the ground, an act which the town's municipality later claimed as "accidental".

Islam is already the second religion in France, and Muslims comprise eleven percent of the town's population. Recently, a row erupted in France, when three Muslim schoolgirls were barred from entering the classroom for wearing headscarf, which in the opinion of the headmaster was a religious sign. Later on, the French authorities relented under international pressure. But the question arises, is it not an indication of belonging to a particular religion when French schoolgirls and boys freely wear crosses around their necks, and Jewish students adhere to their skull caps?

Commentary Assails UK Treatment of Kurds

LD3010221189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Unatttributed commentary]

[Excerpts] (?Courteous) against Britain's (?misconduct) with the Kurdish immigrants, nearly 4,000 of the Kurdish immigrants resident in Britain staged a protest rally during the funeral ceremonies of a Kurdish immigrant who had committed suicide after rejection of his asylum request by the British Government and as a token of protest against the undecided fate of Kurdish immigrants in that country. This 26-year-old Kurdish immigrant took to self-immolation in a detention camp near London Airport after his request for asylum was dismissed and he was about to be repatriated to Turkey. He succumbed to his serous injuries 3 days later. During the current year about 3,000 Kurds have emigrated to Britain and most of them are awaiting the British Interior Department's verdict on their asylum requests. [passage omitted]

Since national interests of governments have constantly acted as a major and key factor in the acceptance of immigrants, it is not surprising at all that contemporary imperialist governments, such as Britain, too, prior to everything else, think of their imperialistic interests and do not spare to embark on many inhuman act in the pursuit of their interests. While under immigration laws, it is the minimum obligation of a country not to send immigrants to a state which is entangled with a war or is faced with internal strife, Britain is refusing to comply with this obligation. In fact, beyond these developments there lie the national interests of Britain. This move on the part of Britain stems from London's extended ties with the Kurds' arch enemy, namely Iraq. Last year, Britain's Commerce Department boosted its trade ties with Iraq, and while failing to denounce the hostile and anti-human postures of Iran concerning the Kurds, increased the volume of the credits extended to that country.

Considering the fact that the British Government extended a 33 million dollar credit to the Iraqi regime for the massacring innocent Kurds at a time when Baghdad was chemically bombing the Kurdish populated regions of the country, how can it attach value to the life of foreign or two [as heard] Kurdish immigrants. What assumes importance for the British Government more than anything else are the national interests rather than the human rights. The claims on observing human rights are being made solely to gain greater profits. It is however indisputable that Britain has faced international regulations and it is the publication of international organizations to react to such a racist move.

Daily Criticizes West Over Gorbachev Initiatives

LD3010112489 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's goodwill for a permanent peace throughout the world has not yet been properly responded by Western statesmen, wrote an English daily Monday.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, in an editorial entitled 'Hope for International Peace' said that since his appointment as the Soviet president, Gorbachev has proposed many initiatives to promote and enhance permanent international peace and security in Europe and around the world.

The Soviet Union destroyed the last of its 239 SS-23 nuclear missiles on October 27 and, in another development, the Soviet leader said the USSR Navy's fourth remaining nuclear armed Golf-class submarines in the Baltic Sea would be dismantled in 1990, urging the West to make the region a nuclear free zone, the paper noted.

"In contrast," the editorial commented, "there are certain groups of politicians and military personnel in Western countries, especially in the U.S., who by taking obstructionist measures, are trying to prevent Gorbachev from achieving his international peace agenda."

Although a number of Gorbachev's initiatives have not been implemented due to U.S. obstructionist measures, West European countries are better prepared to accept Gorbachev's proposals, the paper noted.

"In the long term this will be beneficial not only to Europe, but to all states throughjout the world," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded.

Editorial Condemns Soviet Praise for Tudeh Party

PM3010153689 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 18 Oct 89 p 8

[Editorial: "A Traitor Is a Traitor, Whether Russian or American"]

[Text] In a commentary Radio Moscow has again supported the true child of the Soviet Communist Party, the Tudeh Party of Iran. If the nature and the past history of the Tudeh Party were not known to all in Iran, it would be assumed that the Tudeh were the most independent and righteous party and the one that has best served the people since the beginning of history.

Radio Moscow commented on the party whose leaders have openly admitted to their dependence on the Soviet Communist Party as follows: The Tudeh Party fought for years against the oppression of the former shah, seeking democratic freedoms and real independence for the country. During the commentary, Radio Moscow did not once mention the treason of the Tudeh Party during the years when Dr Mosadeq was in power. It did not say how this party caused the downfall of the Mosadeq government, which led to the success of the 1953 coup led by the CIA.

In another part of the commentary the radio replied to the critics of the Tudeh Party and said: This party defended the rights of the workers and wanted to see improved social and economic conditions. The party struggled against U.S. and British control with the aim of prosperity for its country.

In the same editorial the radio commented on the good services of the Tudeh Party to the Islamic revolution. It said: There is no doubt about the historic help of the Tudeh Party to the Islamic revolution. There is no label that can change this fact. The truth is that the party was one of the most active in the Iranian revolution. Armed bands from this party fought against the shah's imperial guards in the streets. Tudeh Party activists worked very hard in factories and workshops. Tudeh Party members struggled for the freedom and prosperity of the Iranian people and even sacrificed their lives to this end.

Because of its unqualified affection for the Tudeh Party, Radio Moscow mentioned none of the shameful treason of some Tudeh Party members who were given important posts. It did not say they passed important confidential information to the enemy occupier. It did not say these same people deserved their punishment. It only said: It was not surprising that the Tudeh Party started its open activity after the revolution and quickly attracted workers to its cause. Only 1 year after the party's coming out in the open, 170,000 people voted for it. History, however, has repeated itself after 30 years. In 1983 the party was again declared illegal. Banning the activities of this party is not a sign of its weakness; quite the reverse. It is clear that they ban only the things that they fear.

We agree. The party was banned not because of its weakness, but rather the treason that it committed against the Iranian people. It is natural to fear the source of treason and dependence, and try to eliminate it.

Radio Moscow is defending the Tudeh Party at a time when the Kremlin leaders are attempting to polish their image before the world. They are also trying to put the past behind them in their relations with Iran. We must now ask Radio Moscow whether this sort of editorial does not defeat its purpose. For the people of Iran, anyone serving the foreigner is a traitor, whether he is, like Rajavi, in the service of the United States, or like Kiyanuri, in the service of the USSR and the Soviet Communist Party. For the Iranian people, a traitor is a traitor, whether Russian or American.

Paper Assails Soviet Criticism of Afghan Forum

PM3010160889 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 18 Oct 89 p 18

[Editorial: "Criticism of a Radio Station Connected With the Soviet Union on a Seminar on Afghanistan in Tehran"]

[Text] Tehran, KEYHAN HAVAI's News Service, 10 Oct 1989—Radio Peace and Progress, which broadcasts from Moscow as the "voice of the Soviet intellectuals," condemns in a commentary the international seminar held in Tehran on the issue of Afghanistan. It attacks the policies of the Islamic Republic and says the regime in Kabul supports Muslims and encourages the Islamic faith. It says that worries expressed at the Tehran seminar about the loss of Islamic values in the Afghan regime were exaggerated.

The commentator of Radio Peace and Progress then launches into the real purpose of editorial and says: It seems that the noise in opposition circles in Afghanistan and among their supporters and backers with regard to threats against Islam is quite false and simply a cover for keeping lucrative political accounts open.

Radio Peace and Progress continues in a milder tone, adopting a fatherly attitude, saying: This type of discussion, aimed at ending the bloodshed in Afghanistan, is necessary, but if the organizers of the Tehran seminar were serious about such discussions, they should have included representatives of the Kabul regime.

In the commentary the radio station speaks from a lofty position, trying to portray the Kabul regime as powerful. It continues: Without the participation of representatives of the Kabul regime, such discussions cannot continue, since we have witnessed during the past few years, and especially since the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the strenghening of the Kabul regime and the people's support for it. To ignore this fact and to suggest that the Democratic Party of Afghanistan has no influence on the politics of the country is not only unwise and far from true, but also in fact a crime.

Radio Peace and Progress mentions the word "crime" and yet forget the crimes committed by the occupation forces in Afghanistan. It goes on to say: Those who want to impose their model of government on the Afghan people—of course, the Kabul regime was not imposed!—have not understood the truth of the matter, which is that those who refuse to see the reality and the goodwill of the Kabul government are awaiting the fruits of their rash actions.

The radio station continues by calling the mujahidin highway robbers and terrorists, saying that the Islamic Republic is playing with them like pieces on a chessboard. It says that the hope of the Iranian leaders to see the end of the Kabul regime is futile and once again stresses that the Tehran regime must recognize the Soviet pawns in Afghanistan!

Soviet Chain Stores To Display Khorasan Products

LD3010195789 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Oct. 30, IRNA—A state-owned export firm here has signed six protocols for exchange of goods on barter basis with Soviet companies located in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the firm's managing director said Monday.

Br. Safari told reporters the protocols were signed during the Iranian trade exhibit last month in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan. On the basis of the agreements, he said, products such as electric appliances, detergents, clothes, shoes and handicrafts will be bartered for electromotors, drills and textiles.

Special pavilions are to be set up in chain stores throughout Soviet Azerbaijan to display goods exclusively manufactured or made in Khorasan Province, he added.

Safari foresaw the annual trade exchanges between the two sides at dlrs 5 million.

He said his company has also signed a separate agreement with the Commerce Ministry of the Soviet province to export 80,000 switches and sockets, and 700 tons of tomato juice to the Soviet Union on barter basis.

Besharati on Eliasson Mission, Al-Ta'if Accord

LD3010083989 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Iran expects representative of the U.N. secretary general Jan Eliasson at the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks, to find a formula for resumption of the talks in his imminent visits to Baghdad and Tehran, said First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in an interview with the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published Monday.

Eliasson is to start his shuttle diplomacy soon to break the deadlock in peace talks.

On the stalemate in the peace talks, Besharati told the paper, "The Security Council members are responsible for continued Iraqi occupation of about 2,000 sq kms of Iranian territory even 430 days after Iran accepted the U.N. Resolution 598." Besharati also said that Iraq prevented materialization of the legitimate rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Iraqi refusal to implement the U.N. resolution and the U.N. chief's four-point plan, he said, "Those countries who imposed the war on Iran for compelling Iran to return to the ranks of imperialists, think in vain that by prolongation of the talks they can reach to their objectives."

On the al-Ta'if conference decisions concerning Lebanon, Besharati deplored that it endorsed sectarian rule

in Lebanon and reaffirmed Maronite domination over the absolute Muslim majority. But, he added that Lebanese Muslims after having shed so much blood will not allow their rights to be trampled upon.

"The Lebanese crisis will not be solved unless the communal system in the war-torn country is ended and an all-embracing constitution which takes the population factor into consideration is adopted," he added.

The first deputy foreign minister also commented on the just concluded visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Damascus and his talks there on situation in Lebanon.

He said, "We do not interfere in internal affairs of other countries including Lebanon. But, being interested in the affairs of Muslims is an indispensable part of our constitution and Islamic principles, which cannot be ignored," he reiterated.

He noted that the Lebanese Muslims and combatants have informed Iran of their concern over the al-Ta'if resolutions. "We are in contact with Syrian officials to discuss the matter in order to adopt a more comprehensive stand," Besharati told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Velayati Message on Improved Cooperation With UAE

LD3010174989 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Mohammad 'Ali Hadi handed over a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs Rashid 'Abdallah in Abu Dhabi today. The message dealt with expansion of cooperation in various fields as well as latest development in the region.

'Abdallah in reply stressed the need for deepening and expansion of mutual ties, and termed the two countries' relations as 'positive' for regional peace and security.

Islamic Envoys Condemn Israeli 'Criminal Acts'

LD3010190989 Terhan Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Heads of diplomatic delegations of Islamic countries in Tehran convened an extraordinary session yesterday in which they condemned the aggressions of the Zionist regime against the sacred shrines of Islam. They also condemned that regime's recent criminal acts in carrying out new excavation works underneath the walls of the al-Aqsa Mosque under the pretext of finding Solomon's body.

In that meeting, which was held in the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran, it was emphasized that such acts, which insult the feelings of Muslims the world over, reflect the weakness and inability of the Zionist regime to withstand the uprising of the Palestinian nation in the occupied territories. The heads of Islamic countries' diplomatic delegations once again expressed their respective countries' support for the struggling nation of Palestine and its heroic uprising aimed at ending occupation and at attaining the right of self-determination without foreign interference. They also expressed support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian government in the land of Palestine, and the cleansing of the sacred shrines from the filthy presence of the usurpers.

Foreign Ministry Source Cited on New Appointments

NC3110105689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 89 p 3

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] Tehran—A new deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania has been appointed and the vacancy for the ambassadorial post to Beijing is likely to be filled shortly.

A Foreign Ministry source speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES confirmed the appointment of Ala'eddin Borujerdi to the post of deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania at the Foreign Ministry. He was Iran's envoy to China prior to his new posting.

The former deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, Javad Mansuri, will go as an Iranian ambassador to Pakistan replacing Mir Mohammad Musavi, the brother of former prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who is back in the country at the end of his tenure in Pakistan.

The same source also told the TEHRAN TIMES that the vacancy for ambassadorship in China may possibly be filled by the Director General for Far Eastern, Asian and Oceania Affairs, Jalal Sadatiyan. A final decision on his posting has not been taken yet although speculation is high in political circles that he will be chosen to the post.

'Reliable Source' Reveals New Envoy to Japan

NC3110110289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 89 pp 1, 15

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] Tehran—Hoseyn Kazempur Ardebili has been appointed the new Iranian ambassador to Tokyo, a reliable source speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES confirmed.

Ardebili will replace Dr Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli who was recently appointed the governor of Central Bank.

Kazempur Ardebili, an economist educated at Iranian-American universities, prior to his fresh appointment was deputy oil minister in international affairs. Relations between Iran and Japan have followed relatively satisfactory course during the last ten years.

Now the case of petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni Port—a longstanding dispute between Iran and Japan—is solved, it is hoped that economic relations between Iran and Japan will expand further. Taking into

account the past record of Japanese firms and companies they can be expected to play a better role in the first 5-year economic development in Iran.

Japan has always been one of the Iranian oil customers. Presently Japan buys about 280,000 to 300,000 barrels of crude oil from Iran per day. However, Iran seems not too happy with the present extent of oil purchase of Japan.

President Meets Heads of Medical Universities

LD2910130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] In a meeting today with the heads of medical universities, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, stressed the importance of the use of the highest educational and research capacity of the universities to serve the people and government organizations. In the meeting, the president referred to the importance given by the Islamic Republic to universities and said: We expanded universities under the conditions of the imposed war when all sectors were under pressure. And in the 5-year plan, too, special importance and priority has been attached to universities and to training specialist manpower.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to the importance of the medical sector in higher education and said: The importance of the medical sector is very clear to us and the shortage of medical facilities and equipment and of a variety of medical specialities is our country's most urgently felt need. We will not be content with the measures taken thus far for expanding the quantity of universities in that area and we are trying, through the qualitative improvement of medical universities and through training the greatest possible number of faithful doctors, to also fulfill the needs of people in the deprived regions of the world in keeping with the principle of Islamic humanitarianism. By means of the planned programs, that will become possible in future years.

Continuing his remarks, the president stressed the pride of the university managers in the improved use of available facilities and resources and also use of assistance from the people. He said: Try, through better use of medical facilities and resources, to manage things for yourselves and to use resources to serve the people.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also spoke of the need for links between the research sectors of government organizations and the research sectors of universities, adding: You must find a means by which all the research work of government organizations and the private sector takes place in universities in which case both universities and the people will benefit.

The president thanked all those involved in medical matters, especially during the imposed war, and added: On the whole, God be praised, the situation of universities is satisfactory within the limits of expectation. And, in view of the extent of responsibilities, the large number of students and the shortage of resources, a great deal of effort is made. The government, too, will strive to the limits of its capacity to resolve the difficulties of universities.

In the meeting, which was attended by deputies from the Ministry of Health, Medicine, and Medical Training, and a number of heads of medical universities, Dr Fazel, the minister of health, medicine, and medical training, and a number of heads of medical universities presented a variety of reports about medical matters.

President Meets Deputies From 'Deprived Areas'

LD3010133289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani held a meeting with more than 100 Majlis deputies from deprived areas. During the meeting he said that at present, the public constantly experiences difficulties in gaining access to the country's resources. He stressed: This is an important matter which we should strive to overcome.

Regarding the fact that some of the country's deprived areas need not be deprived, he referred to his recent trip to three northwestern provinces. He said: Three provinces have water and suitable soil and climate; they also have industrious people. These resources, however, have not been suitably exploited.

He stated that the causes of deprivation should be found so that we will have justice and enjoy the country's resources. He said: At present, there is a unit in the Plan and Budget Organization assigned to overcome deprivation in various provinces. An office will also be set up in the President's Office to pursue this matter.

He said: A comprehensive study is required to overcome deprivation in various areas. Some areas, for various reasons, are incapable of attracting the facilities. [sentence as heard] There should be a mechanism to achieve a reasonable return on investment and the utilization of manpower and resources.

He then referred to the government's readiness to overcome deprivation in the country. Addressing the Majlis deputies, he said: We are fully prepared. You must put forward realistic proposals.

Referring to the priority given to the country's executive affairs, he said: At present, we are suffering substantial losses from delays in the work in progress. If these projects are completed on time, the country's economic situation will definitely change. [passage omitted]

Majlis Deputy Speaker Views Development Plan

LD3010175189 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's first five year development plan anticipates a 112 billion dollar investment in hard currency, of which dlrs 70 bn

will be earned by way of oil exports, dlrs 12 bn from non-oil exports, and the remaining dlrs 30 bn through other channels, a senior official said Monday [30 October].

Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat, said "the Majlis will start its debates on the country's development plan within the next two weeks."

Bayat estimated the amount of cash lying idle in public hands at 14 trillion rials (192 bn dlrs), and said the government was trying to put foreign exchange at the disposal of people in order to utilize their idle cash.

The Majlis vice speaker also termed the country's foreign exchange reserves and its oil exports as being at a favorable level.

Majlis Deputies Call For Unity, Open Debate

PM3010151089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 89 p 2

[Report on the Majlis session of 4 October 1989]

[Excerpts] An open session of the Majlis was held this morning headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. [passage omitted] The second pre-agenda speaker at today's Majlis session was 'Ali Fazel Hamedani, deputy for Kabutar Ahang. He started by voicing his opposition to establishing ties with Saudi Arabia. He said: Today al-Ta'if has become the center for the gathering of all inhuman circles because Maronites, Zionists, 'Aflaqis, and the filthy Al Sa'ud regime have all intertwined, so they can breathe a while longer with U.S. support. So it is amazing that in these sensitive times some of our dear ones speak of peace with Saudi Arabia. They make excuses, saying that we should go on the pilgrimage to establish contact with other Muslims, and say that they want peace. Of course, the importance of the pilgrimage is clear to all, but it must be realized that when Islam is in danger there is no sense in compromise, peace, and a quite life.

The speaker continued his speech by commenting on the issues in Hamedan Province. He said: During Unity Week, I want to say that any kind of splittism is condemned, whether in the past or in the present, whether among Sunni brothers or among Shiites, whether in Arabia or Hamedan Province. The issue of town, country, and ethnic identities must not be confused with issues of ideology.

Addressing the minister of the interior, he said: Dear brother, respected minister of the interior, if God is willing, we hope you will be kind to us. Factionalism, party politics, and group- thinking are much like ration coupons. I think that 10 years since the revolution, the time for this group's policymaking is over. I ask the respected president not to allow the province of Hamedan to be a further victim of factionalism, to having issues discussed in back rooms, away from the ears of the people. The people of that province are truly tired of this interplay of factions. Unfortunately, those who want to say something are insulted and thrown out, but they must know that the time for insults is over. I hope the top officials of the country will choose a strong manager as governor, who will think of all the people; otherwise, the issue will become even more critical.

The third pre-agenda speaker at today's Majlis session was 'Ali Yusef-pur, deputy for Ardel. [passage omitted]

The speaker talked about the need for a strong leadership and a strong government. He said: Under present conditions it is everyone's duty to cooperate to strengthen the leadership and the government chosen by the people. Under these conditions, when our people are heroically standing firm in the face of problems both from within and from outside, when the dear imam is no longer among us, the need for unity is needed more than ever.

Unfortunately, during the past week certain people, on the pretext of advising Muslims, have said certain things on the air. I feel it is my responsibility to answer them the best way I can. It is our custom that advice comes in various stages. It starts with private face-to-face meetings and letters. If these methods have no effect, the adviser openly voices his criticism, which will have better results if the adviser means well. What has happened all of a sudden is that the respected advisers are not going through the preliminary stages and go straight on the air. They should be asked about this.

The question of the advice itself is another matter. These speakers on the air say that things should not be this way—to have some people appointed to certain posts and others set aside. They complain about someone gaining a post and another losing his title. This has been the major focus point of their advice. Of course, in the past few months we have witnessed a great many changes among the country's officials. [passage omitted]

The last speaker at today's Majlis session was Asad'ollah Bayat, deputy for Zanjan, who spoke about the position of the Majlis and the crucial role of its deputies.

Bayat said: It is a symbol of freedom that the deputies walk into the Majlis like Modarres and stand firm against devious thoughts and dangers, giving warnings to officials. Is it not essential for deputies to know about everything that goes on inside and outside the country so as to carry out their legal mission with dignity? Is the safeguarding of this criticism and agreement not the reason for the growth of thought and correction of understanding? Will prevention or limitation of such bravery not cause slowness of thought and a decline of ideas, and is it not quite against the wishes of the imam?

The deputy for Zanjan continued his speech about the position of the Majlis and the sensitive duty of the deputies and said: Do these well-meaning people not realize that we are living in the age of the Islamic revolution? Do they not realize that the cruel regime of the shah has passed? Do they not know that this is the age of the jurisconsult and the rule of God? Do they not

know that this is the age of wisdom, logic, and freedom? Do they not realize that the age of sticks and stones is over? This is the time for discussion, friendship, and Islamic brotherhood. Nowadays the Islamic ummah obeys the principles of the revolution and the guidance of the imam and benefits from the rich Islamic culture.

The deputy for Zanjan then reminded other Majlis members of their oath to safeguard the Constitution. He said that to violate this oath is a great sin. He added: We must safeguard the dignity of the Constitution and we strive not to weaken its bases by illegal acts, because that would weaken the just rights of the deputies and the people. We must try not to sell short our values, to guard the Constitution, its progressive and vital components. The responsibility of the Council of Guardians is greater than that of others, and they must try harder than others to safeguard the dignity of the Constitution. God forbid lest someone's remarks or speech provide a pretext for some simple person sufficient to cause a deviation from the path of the Constitution.

The Majlis deputy for Zanjan continued his speech by stressing the need to safeguard Islamic values. He commented on the sensitivity of the Majlis and practical actions to be taken against deviations. He said that the question from 110 deputies to the minister of justice on the meeting between the head of the judicial authorities and someone close to the British spy, Roger Cooper, was a sign that the deputies felt themselves responsible.

Bayat also asked that the jewel-like remarks of the imam be acted on and said that it was necessary to give them a legal framework in order to achieve the ideals of the revolution. He then praised the recent speech by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili about personal freedom and said: Defending the oppressed, stressing and valuing the people, strengthening the Majlis, and the principle of neither East nor West are the foundations of the revolution and the imam. To deviate from them is treason against the ideals of the revolution, the imam, and the regime.

'Mobilization of Forces Week' Program Outlined

LD2710151189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Rahmani, the official in charge of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard—Basij, in an interview with reporters announced the programs for "Basij Week" [week for mobilization of forces] and the names of each of the days of that week from 25 November to 2 December this year.

He said the great nationwide gathering of the commanders of bases, regions, and centers of resistance will take place beside the immaculate shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, 2 days before Basij Week. He added that during Basij Week art and culture festivals, photo exhibitions, and poetry nights will be held in various provinces' centers and towns, and that the Basij sports festival will be staged in Tehran.

Rahmani, referring to the fact that so far more than 5 million Basijis have undergone military training in 25,000 bases, said: New resistance bases will be set up across the country and the Basij centers are ready to register new popular forces.

Oil Company Director Interviewed on Exports

NC2910082989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Interview with the director general of the National Iranian Oil Company by unidentified Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Rahgozar, as the director general of the National Iranian Oil Company of Iran, please tell us about the latest decisions on the export of petrochemicals and byproducts and in general at what (?level) will they be?

[Rahgozar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am happy to inform you that the first consignment of sulfur was exported today from the Khark petrochemical company, a subsidiary company. Because you know the situation in Khark during the war, I wish to tell you that this unit was made operational again and has resumed production, and today its products are being exported.

Fortunately, since the cease-fire all petrochemical units involved in production before the war are functioning to the maximum today. We have implemented two phases in our current petrochemical complexes, requiring not only reconstruction, but mostly new construction. These will begin production next month at the latest and are the Razi and Abadan companies, which will double our production.

Therefore, our total petrochemical production will exceed 3 million tons annually. Compared with our average production in the aftermath of the revolution, this means a considerable increase in production.

Our plans for next year are comprehensive and are in the process of implementation. Investment under these plans is foreseen at nearly $4 million, or more than 4 billion tumans. Our four main projects include the Iran-Japanese petrochemical company—you have heard that we resolved our problems with the Japanese side, praise be to God. The production program for this unit will be announced in detail in the near future, God willing, along with its timeframe.

The other subsidiary industries should also be ready when we give them the necessary information. The Esfahan, Tabriz, and Arak complexes are the next largest

projects. During the course of the 5-year plan, one of these units will go into production each year as scheduled.

[Correspondent] Very well. Because petrochemicals play a sensitive role in the country's economy, what is the scale of our exchanges with foreign countries in this field?

[Rahgozar] After the revolution we did not export significant amounts of petrochemicals. Under the first 5-year plan, we anticipate exports amounting to $1 billion from various petrochemical units to other countries. Although our units have been tailored to cater primarily to the domestic market, we aim to boost production by 60 percent annually, which will be a massive jump in production in the coming year, God willing. As I mentioned earlier, it is aimed at domestic consumption, but $1 billion worth of exports have been targeted for the next year.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

TEHRAN TIMES on Impetus for Tourist Industry

NC2810133989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Tourism Needs Boost in Iran"]

[Text] Tourism can certainly play a part in the reconstruction effort that the country has moved into and outlined in the First Five-Year Plan formulated since the Islamic Revolution. In fact President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his very first press conference to local reporters after assumption of office recently stressed the need to boost this sector of the economy. The president said that efforts should be made to encourage this industry which can bring in valuable economic and cultural gains and help the world appreciate the rich history and traditions of the country coming down from times past, as well as of the progress that is being made today.

After this assertion by the president no one can possibly deny encouragement to the development and growth of the tourist industry and every organization that is directly or indirectly involved should cooperate in making the effort a complete success. Revitalization of this sector has to be considered by every one of these organizations as part of national policy and refrain from letting personal views or prejudices impede plans from going forward.

To make tourism attractive to the foreigner a number of organs in the country will have to play a part and these will include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will have to ensure that the genuine tourist is permitted to enter the country without too many snags that can irk, the national airlines which will have to cater to the tourists travel arrangements to and from the country, the customs organization which will have to be clear on how to instruct prospective tourists on regulations and accord them a polite welcome and all other organizations both outside and within presenting an image of the country that will induce more people to visit.

No earnest efforts have been made during the past years to develop tourism in this way and most visitors have been businessmen, politicians or occasional groups coming in to attend meetings and conferences here. It has not been a regular stream desiring to visit the country on holiday and enjoy the sights and learn more of the country. It has to be remembered that tourists in this category would not like to be hampered and have the fewest possible rules and regulations irritate them. The Foreign Ministry liaising with Iranian diplomatic missions abroad shoud endeavor to make visits to the Islamic Republic easy and convenient while working strictly within the rules.

Aside from being a useful income earner tourism has the advantage of bringing the people of the world who visit here as tourists closer in friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran. A first hand impression of the country by visitors can also be the best counter to foreign media propaganda and false reports abroad on conditions here. To see is to believe is the axiom that has to be put forth when thinking in terms of encouraging the foreign tourists into Iran.

Of course there is a need for a word of caution. When we propose that tourism should be given all the unstinted encouragement possible it is not meant to imply that tourism should be allowed to become the hand maid of or be put at the service of intelligence agencies and others who may wish to disparage or subvert the cherished policies held sacrosanct by the Islamic Republic. This we should not allow.

Pakistan

Further on No-Confidence Vote Against Bhutto

Bhutto, Army Chief Cited

BK3010123089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 30 Oct 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30 (AFP)—This week's no-confidence test of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has unleashed a political storm fraught with accusations of kidnapping and corruption.

The war of nerves that has been raging between the government and the opposition for the past week, with both sides convinced they have the support of a majority within the National Assembly, will come to a head Wednesday [1 November] when Pakistan holds its first no-confidence debate. The vote will be held either Wednesday or Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto, 36, who is expecting her second child, met Monday with her ministers and MPs [members of parliament] in a hotel in the northern Swat region, where they have been holed up since Saturday.

She has claimed the support of more than 119 MPs, the required majority, saying they have "courageously resisted intimidation and temptation."

Last wednesday, Ms. Bhutto sacked labor secretary Tariq Magsi after he announced support for the no-confidence motion.

She accused him of offering his vote in exchange for "a jeep, 20 million rupees (one million U.S. dollars), the rank of a federal minister and the authorization to open an investment bank."

She then accused the Punjab provincial government, ruled by the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), a coalition of conservative parties, and the "drug mafia" of bribing members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for their votes.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, 58, the shadow prime minister who would succeed Ms. Bhutto if the vote goes against her Wednesday, asserted not only that PPP MPs had been "taken hostage" in Swat but also that at least seven opposition supporters had been "kidnapped."

The opposition, charging that the ruling party was going to try to block access to the National Assembly on Wednesday, has demanded deployment of troops in the capital.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, the Armed Forces chief of staff, broke his silence for the first time Sunday when he said that the current political struggle was only "part of the democratic process" begun with the general elections of November 1988.

Apparently staying above the fray, Gen. Beg said he hoped the parliamentary row would be "kept within constitutional limits and conform to democratic norms and practices." He added however that the Army was "prepared to perform their constitutional role and maintain and restore the supremacy of law."

Ms. Bhutto is Pakistan's first elected premier following 11 years of military rule under General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who died in an August 1988 plane crash.

Gen. Beg made light of the kidnapping charges, saying, "We have heard that the wives of some MPs are worried about their husbands."

Wednesday's debate will mark the first time since Pakistan was founded in 1947 that a government has been faced with a no-confidence motion. In its 42 years of existence, Pakistan has seen more military regimes than civilian governments.

If she wins, Ms. Bhutto, whose power was weakened by the defection last week of all 14 Muhajir Qaumi Movement MPs to the opposition, has said she would not call fresh elections if the no-confidence motion is defeated.

Of the National Assembly's 237 lawmakers, 148 supported Ms. Bhutto for her rise to power last December 12.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who was elected head of state the same day through an opposition motion, has remained silent since the start of the current parliamentary crisis.

Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Ishaq Khan have been at odds in recent months over constitutional questions concerning appointment of Armed Forces chiefs and Supreme Court judges.

Troops To Deploy During Debate

BK3010125089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30 (AFP)—Soldiers will be deployed here to assure security during the upcoming debate on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, National Assembly speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid said Monday [30 October].

Mr. Khalid, speaking at a news conference here, said that the government had taken the decision in response to an opposition demand for security for its MPs [members of parliament] and "easy access" to the parliament building on the occasion.

The opposition's no-confidence motion, the first in the country's history, will be debated on Wednesday, and the vote will be held Wednesday or Thursday.

Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, in a letter to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has demanded the Army's protection fearing that the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would prevent his supporters from entering the building.

Mr. Khalid said the Army would be deployed throughout the Islamabad area, concentrated within a two-kilometer radius of the parliament building.

The speaker said the government had accepted the opposition's demand "to ensure complete safety to the members" for the special session.

Troops were on the alert in Karachi, in southern Sind Province, on Monday to prevent possible violence.

Official sources said the troops would stay on alert throughout Sind, Ms. Bhutto's home province, immediately following the vote.

Tension has been running high in the province since Sunday night, when gunmen opened fire on offices of the Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM), which last week

broke its alliance with the PPP in support of the opposition's no-confidence motion.

MQM leader Altaf Hussain has accused government officials of "telling us that if the motion against the PPP gets through, there will be a civil war in Sind."

Deployment Asked by Opposition

BK3010132589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Security measures, including the deployment of Army units, are to be taken within the limits of Islamabad, particularly within 1 mile of the National Assembly, on Wednesday [1 November] when the no-confidence resolution will be taken up for discussion. The speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, told newsmen in Islamabad today that this assurance has been given to him by the federal government in view of the apprehensions and fears expressed and certain demands made by the opposition leaders. He said at no cost will any political party, group, or person be allowed to obstruct the members of the National Assembly from coming to the house, create disorder, or indulge in provocation of any kind.

The speaker asked those members who wish to come to the house or who need his cooperation in this respect to contact him.

Bhutto Claims Majority Support

BK3010155189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister has said she enjoys the support of the majority of the National Assembly members and this will soon be proved. Talking to newsmen in (Shehdu Sharif) today, Benazir Bhutto said there neither is nor has been any doubt about Pakistan People's Party's majority.

Answering a question, she said it is for the opposition to prove its majority because they are the ones who initiated the no-confidence motion. She said: I have been challenging them from the very 1st day to demonstrate their majority. She asked whether they have no votes or whether they are making false claims and are trying to create an atmosphere of uncertainty and insecurity, which is not good for the country.

The prime minister said the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] has suffered a defeat in the elections, but are still not allowing the country's system to function. She, however, assured the nation that the system will work, the democracy will survive, and Pakistan will flourish. She said her government will strengthen and safeguard the country and lead it to the path of development.

Benazir Bhutto said: We are confident of our majority. We are demonstrating our confidence from the depth of our hearts and are not beating a retreat.

Answering a question, the prime minister said: I am a political leader and believe in the political process, not in terror and oppression.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said many elements are behind the no-confidence motion, but no foreign country is involved in this.

Earlier, the prime minister was accorded a warm welcome on her arrival in Mingaora this morning. A large number of people standing on both sides of the road from the airport to the hotel welcomed the prime minister enthusiastically.

PPP, IJI Members Discuss Motion

BK3010160989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] A meeting of the National Assembly members of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] belonging to the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] and members of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] and the federally administered tribal areas who support the PPP was held at the NWFP Assembly today. The meeting devised ways and means to deal with the no-confidence resolution moved by the opposition in the National Assembly. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah and NWFP Chief Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Ahmad Saeed Awan, told the newsmen that the PPP has more votes than the opposition anticipates. He said in view of the presence of the majority of the National Assembly members at today's meeting, we are fully confident of our success. He asked the newsmen to count for themselves the members of the National Assembly, as the members are allowed to meet all of them.

The minister of state for information rejected the opposition allegations that certain members of the National Assembly have been forcibly taken away. He pointed to the National Assembly members who were roaming freely. Contrary to this, he added, the IJI is holding the National Assembly members in Murree and Rawalpindi under the protection of the police and even the journalists are not allowed to meet with them.

Governor, MQM Chief Condemn Firing in Karachi

BK3110073789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Sind Governor Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim has appealed to people to remain peaceful, avoid heeding the words of miscreants, and carry out their routine work peacefully.

In a press statement issued in Karachi yesterday, the governor referred to the sporadic incidents of firing in various parts of Karachi and said it was the handiwork of

a handful of antisocial elements who wanted to spread restlessness, anxiety, and fear among peaceful citizens. The governor said the Sind government is fully alert and law enforcement agencies have been directed to maintain law and order at all costs and to take stringent action against those who disturb the peace. Army troops and rangers will take up massive patrols in sensitive areas.

Speaking at a news conference in Karachi yesterday evening, the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], Altaf Hussain, condemned the indiscriminate firing in various parts of Karachi on Sunday [29 October] night. He appealed to the president and the Sind governor to take appropriate steps to protect the lives of people in Karachi and interior parts of the province.

Sri Lanka

Daily Welcomes India Withdrawal, Looks to Future

BK3010085789 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Sounding the Retreat"]

[Text] The de-induction of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], if that term has any special appeal to Indian sentiment, appears at last to be taking some positive shape.

As Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne announced at a Press Conference on Wednesday [18 October], Indian troops have virtually evacuated the Amparai District, to begin with.

The sight of Indian convoys rolling on their outward route has already been greeted with enthusiasm by many sections of the people of this country.

A committee to monitor the process of the Indian withdrawal has been appointed to iron out any last-minute hitch. The government has already taken measures to see that the areas which the Indians are leaving will come under the supervision and protection of Sri Lankan forces—civilians, presumably, reinforced by troops where necessary. The danger of creating a vacuum has thus been clearly anticipated.

The Indian withdrawal marks the triumph of President Premadasa's persistent campaign for the vindication of our territorial integrity. In that campaign, he was able to claim the tireless assistance of worthy aides like Minister Wijeratne and the President's International Affairs Advisor Bradman Weerakoon, to mention just two.

The turn-about by Indian forces, of course, is also a triumph for the vast majority of the people of this country.

But, like all honour and triumph, it brings in its train heavy responsibilities. Those whose very fighting led to India's intrusion, and those who started up a fight of their own on the plea that the Indian presence was obnoxious to Sri Lanka, must now appreciate that it lies with them to prove that we will be better off without outsiders on our shores.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] in particular, might refrain from fresh clashes or other designs. At all events, India's intervention helped to end the cry for separation. That is why there can be no question of establishing a separate Tamil army. In the south, the Indian withdrawal removes much of the pretext for any crusade.

The first proof of the claim that we can dispense with a foreign presence must come from the termination of fratricidal conflicts, now evident sporadically in the north and on a larger scale and more continuously in the south. We have seen how internal conflicts have a way of fragmenting nations; of reducing them to weary wars of exhaustion.

We must not repeat the Cambodia scenario here. Already the nation and the people—the poor especially—have lost enough and more by way of public facilities, schooling, work and employment, harvests and production; by way of human life itself.

The Indian de-induction, or withdrawal, does India credit. It marks Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's will and courage to keep his word. But, as it has been said before, the departure of the Indian forces cannot, by itself, mean the end of our problem. The violence which is continuing in various parts of the country must end—before we can seriously begin to reap the fruits of a great diplomatic victory.

The Indian Government's final agreement to pull out its troops offers a telling lesson in the value of negotiation and civilised methods of dealing with differences.

President Premadasa was to encounter a long series of prevarications, ambiguity, delays and quibbling before he and his team were finally able to convince the Indians that they must go.

That was a triumph for the process of debate and discussion. If a powerful neighbouring country can see the wisdom of a reasoned resolution of an issue, cannot our militant factions draw some moral from it?

True, the Indian Government could be facing other pressures. But who isn't? Surely, the subversives are not without their own: Then is it not time that they, too, switched to the negotiating table to which they have been repeatedly invited?

Press Warns Opposition Against 'Civil Agitation'

BK3110072689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Colombo, Oct 31 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan press Tuesday warned opposition parties against civil agitation after a peace conference fell apart, saying the failure of the meeting would encourage authoritarianism, repression and anarchy.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), led by former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, on Monday announced it was withdrawing from the All Party Conference (APC) in order to lead an anti-government agitation campaign.

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka last week indicated it too would pull out.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa initiated the APC in September in a bid to end persistent violence in the island republic which has killed thousands and battered the economy.

The SUN newspaper said that with the pullout of the SLFP and communist party, the All Party Conference would lose its relevance. But it said the opposition was as responsible as the government for "saving the nation from an imminent calamity."

"An imminent breakdown in political systems will only enhance and encourage the elements of anarchy, repression and authoritarianism," the SUN said in an editorial headlined: "Wither APC."

"Today the nation renowned for ahimsa (non-violence) and dhamma [faith, religion] has broken the world record in fratricide where killings take place by the hour. It is the number one killer country beating Lebanon, El Salvador and Punjab," the paper said.

The English language ISLAND said much hope had been pinned on the APC, but its future was now in the balance since the two parties withdrew.

"It is left to be seen what course of action the other parties will follow but it is clear that the SLFP's decision has placed the conference in peril," the ISLAND said in an editorial.

The state-run DAILY NEWS reported the opposition action without comment.

According to the ISLAND, the SLFP believed it was futile to continue with the peace conference after the government turned down its proposals to set up a provisional administration and scrap the French-style executive presidency.

The opposition wanted to go back to the Westminister model practiced here between 1948—when Sri Lanka achieved independence from Britain—and 1978.

"The government's position appears to be that it would be futile to form such an administration if the (militant) Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) is not a party to it," the ISLAND said.

The JVP has been blamed for most of the violence since mid-1987, and is accused of killing over 5,000 people in the past two years.

The Sinhalese rebel group has rejected repeated invitations by the government to attend its peace initiative.